THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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Summary of News.

Monday, 9th March.

THE preliminary summation of the returns received from the Supervisors of the Calcutta Census gives the following results:—Occupied houses, 65,147, males 4,16,123 and females 2,34,123, total 6,50,246. These results cannot be regarded as perfectly accurate as they have not yet been checked. They also do not include the figures for the Port or the Canals within the Municipality. The area of the present Municipality does not correspond with that of the year 1881, and the population of certain blocks must be added to and subtracted from the figures of each year before an exact comparison can be made; but it may be said generally that the results show an increase of about seven per cent, in those wards in which camparison is at present possible.

THE text of the bill "entuled an Act to amend the law relating to certain officers in India," is as follows:—

Be it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:—

1. It shall be lawful for the Governor-General of India in Council, at the request of the Secretary of State in Council for India, from time to time to require on public grounds any of the several officers specified in the schedule to this Act to leave India for the purpose of visiting Europe, and the departure from India and return to Europe of any such officer upon such requirement as aforesaid shall not be deemed in law a resignation and avoidance of his office or offices or employment, but such officer during such absence from India shall retain his office or offices.

2. Any such officer whose presence in Europe shall be required in manner aforesaid may, if the Secretary of State in Council shall so determine, but not otherwise, receive during his absence from India such part not exceeding one-half of his salary as the Secretary of State in Council shall direct, and provided he returns to India and resumes his duties within such period as the Secretary of State shall appoint, he shall thereupon, if the Secrtary of State in Council shall so determine, but not otherwise, be entitled to receive so much as the Secretary of State in Council shall direct of the salary which but for his absence from India, he would have received during the period of such absence.

3. During the absence from India of any such officer, other than the Governor-General of India and the Governors of Madras and Bombay, upon such requirement as aforesaid, the temporary vacancy caused by such absence shall be supplied by the appointment of the Governor-General in Council, and until the return to India and resumption of his duties by the officers so required to leave India the person so nominated shall execute the office by him supplied, and shall have all the powers thereof, and shall have and be entitled to such salary and emoluments during his continuance in such office as the Governor-General in Council shall direct.

4. During the absence from India upon such requirement as aforesaid of the Governor-General of India, or of the Governor of Madras, or of theGovernor of Bombay, the temporary vacancy caused by such absence shall be supplied in the same manner as if the vacancy had occurred irrespective of such requirement as aforesaid.

THE *fete*, held at the Rink, in Calcutta, on Monday last, in aid of the Lady Dufferin Fund, was a great success. The Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne took a lively interest in the proceedings.

THERE was a heavy hailstorm at Tollygunge, Russapagla, Kidderpore, and the neighbouring places on Wednesday evening last. Some of the hailstones that fell at Tollygunge and Russapagla weighed about a half seer each.

THE Post-Master-General has assured the London correspondent of the *Manchester Examiner* that there is not the slightest prospect of the scheme of universal penny postage being adopted. The right hon. gentleman states that the 2½d. post to the colonies only just pays itself, exclusive of mail packet subsidies, which are so much loss. If the penny colonial post were granted it would not only involve a considerable present sacrifice, but there would also be the certainty of a largely increasing loss as the bulk of the mails increased.

Tuesday, 10th March.

A DIFFICULTY has arisen (*Home News* says) with regard to general H. Brackenbury's nomination as Military member of the Viceroy's Council. It seems he was last in India for two or three months in 1880, as Private Secretary to Lord Lytton, and the appointment can be legally held only by one who has served in India within the past ten years. "This is, no doubt, a wise rule. It might be extended, with great advantage to other high functionaries—Commanders-in-Chief, for instance. In their case it is more especially necessary that they should have had recent practical experience of the working of the Native Armies, and such appointments should always be given to the officers who have lately held Divisional Commands in India. Just now, on the contrary, in Madras, both the Governor and the Commander-in Chief, with their respective staffs, are new to the country, and all require coaching at once. Not only the Southern Presidency, but also Burmah, in its disturbed state, is under the command of a Chief who, however able and energetic, is nevertheless new to his work. A little more Home Rule in the Indian Army would be a very good thing."

BABU RAM CHUNDER CHATTERJEE, the Bengalee balloonist, gave at Lahore, on March 9th, a most successful performance in the presence of a vast crowd of people including the *elite* of the European and Native communities of the city. The ascent exceeded 4,000 feet and the ascent and descent did not take more than 10 minutes, the performance being the first in the province. Great interest was evinced by the people and the Babu was hailed with enthusiastic cheers.

WE regret to hear of the death of Mr. A. F. N. Watkins, of the firm of Messrs. Watkins and Co., Armenies, Calcutta. He died on Tuesday at the early age of 43 years.

MR. RISLEY succeeds Mr. Bolton as Magistrate of the 24-Pergannas, and Mr. C. W. M. Brett acts for Mr. Cowley as Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpur.

A heavy snow-storm has taken place in London and on the South and East Coasts and other parts. The telegraph lines have been broken down, and traffic is stopped in many places.

THE Manchester City Council has decided to advance two and-a-half million sterling to the Ship Canal Company.

THE *New York Herald* says:—'We shall have soon a judicial decision as to the value of a father. It has been already settled by the Courts in the United States that the value of a wife is $5,000, which is the sum that a husband can recover when a railway has killed his wife, but the value of a father is as yet undetermined. The son of the valet of Prince Napoleon has sued the Prince for the value of his, the valet's, father, who was drowned by an accident to a Channel steamer, on board of which he was a passenger while in the Prince's service. * * * To the lay mind it certainly seems as if the value of a father must depend upon circumstances. There are fathers who are unquestionably of great value to their sons, and there are others who, in the opinion of their sons, are of no value whatever. It is true that while a wife can be replaced, it is impossible to replace a father, and this may make a father, in the eye of the law, more valuable than a wife. It is useless, however, to indulge in speculation as to the matter, when we have every reason to anticipate that in a short time we shall have the precise value of fathers established by law.' "The market value of fathers" is unknown in eastern countries. We need not, however, deplore our ignorance. Our 'reformers' may some day call in legislative aid to enlighten us on the point.

THE *Civil and Military Gazette* says that Babu Bishen Churn Dutt, who has been appointed Post-master-General of Behar, is the first Bengali who has been given such an important office in the Postal Department.

THE Government of India contemplate abolishing the title of Prime Minister, which Rajah Amar Singh, of Jummu, now holds. He will merely be known as President of the State Council for Cashmere and Jummu.

Wednesday, 11th March.

THE *Bangabashi* publishes under the signatures of Rajah Peary Mohun Mukerji and Rajah Soshi Shikhareswar Roy, the prospectus of a Hindu Religious *Sabha* to be called *Dharma Mandali*. Its object will be to impart Sanskrit education to Hindu boys, and publish Bengali books, tracts and pamphlets, explaining the real scope of Hindu religion, to grant pecuniary help to Hindu preachers and *Adhyapakas*, to establish a Hindu temple in Calcutta, where discussions on Hindu religion will be carried on, and so forth. Every Hindu, paying an annual subscription of Rs. 3, will be eligible as a member of the *Sabha*. All remittances are to be sent to Rajah Peary Mohun Mukerji at present. The *Sabha* will be registered, and its business will be conducted by an Executive Committee, presided over by an Acharya.

THE *Indian Messenger* says that the authorities of the City College have secured the services of Mr. Devendra Nath Das, B. A., late Professor at the City of London College and at the Birchbeck Institution, London, and Lecturer at Messrs. Wren-Gurney's Institution for candidates for the Indian Civil Service, London. An M. A. class in English has recently been opened in connection with the college in which Mr. Das is one of the lecturers.

GREAT preparations are being made for rejoicing at Bhopal. It is said that, a few years ago, the Begum adopted a son, Mahomed Mir, whose *Bismulla* is to take place in the current month. The ceremony will cost the State a sum of no less than ten lacks of rupees! This step, according to the Lucknow *Advocate*, is taken to disinherit Sultan Jahan Begum, the only daughter of the Begum of Bhopal, and the recognised heir of the State.

SIR CHARLES DILKE's re-entry into public life has been slow, but steady and sure. He now stands a good chance of entering Parliament. The Liberals of the Forest of Dean have nominated Sir Charles as their candidate at the next election.

GREAT BRITAIN is to have no end of strikes it seems. The miners of all of the Earl of Londonderry's collieries struck work as a protest against the Silksworth evictions. Six thousand are now out on strike. The Scottish strikes are yet barely over.

THE *Financial News* asserts that instead of deficits, the Russian Budget either balances or shows an increase, and the country whose certain bankruptcy was persistently prophesied a few years ago has since then not only converted its national debt from a five to a four per cent basis, but at the present time, from its foreign credits, absolutely controls the money markets at European centres. The ancient argument that Russia must raise money somehow; and that a war loan was the only method left for raising the wind, has thus been completely falsified. The receipts of Russia from 1880 to 1889, during which period an income-tax has been imposed, have increased more than 30 per cent., we are told.

THE Nassick Tramway, five miles long, connecting the holy city of Nassick with the railway, has been constructed by a private Company without a guarantee, and in the face of many discouragements. As the tale is told by a Bombay paper, it appears that an addition of 60 per cent to the cost of the line was caused by delays due to Governmen thesitation to give the guarantee and by an exaction in regard to the character of the rails to be employed which the Company, at any rate, seems to have looked upon as unnecessary and vexatious. The same Company is understood to have in view another important feeder project, the need for which has been recognised for years past, namely, a tramway, 21 miles in length, from Barsee to Marsee Road Station on the G. I. P. Railway.

MUFTI MAHOMED RAN SOULTANOW, the spiritual chief of the Mussulmans of Orenburg, has arrived at St. Petersburg on a curious mission. The Russian censor has taken objection to some chapters in the Koran, and suppressed them, with the same equanimity as if he were dealing with obnoxious newspaper articles. The Mahommedan envoy is now going to petition the Czar on the subject (the *Times'* Vienna correspondent says), with a view of obtaining His Majesty's gracious permission that a few of the fundamental laws of his co-religionists' faith may not be expunged from the editions of the Koran allowed to circulate in Russia.

Thursday, 12th March.

AT the opening of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway the other day, some fifty Chiefs assembled at Chakardarpur to meet the Viceroy. They came from all parts of Chota Nagpur, many of them from great distances. In several instances, the travellers were many days on the journey, and had to make their way through difficult hill-country and heavy jungles.

IN the House of Commons, on Feb. 16th, Mr. Conybeare asked Sir John Gorst a remarkable question. He inquired whether it was a fact that a Mahomedan, Sheikh Abdul Rasoul, was apprehended on his arrival in Bombay on January 27th, 1890, by the Police Commissioner of Bombay; whether Sheikh Abdul Rasoul was imprisoned without trial and without any statement being made to him as to the reason of his imprisonment in the fort of Asseergarh, in the Central Provinces, for nine months, and that on the expiration of that period he was taken to Bombay and put on board a steamer bound for London, against his strong protest; that his passage was paid by Government and that he was landed in England without any means of support. Also whether, when he was put on board the steamer bound for England, he was told, on the authority of the Government of India, that the India Office was in possession of the facts of his case, and would arrange a sufficient allowance for him; whether the Secretary of State would state why this man was imprisoned for nine months and kept in custody all that time without trial; whether under the Penal Code, the Government had power to imprison parties without trial and to keep them in prison, and why Sheikh Abdul Rasoul was shipped to England. What charges the Government of India or the India Office had against him, and why the communications which he had addressed to the Secretary of State for India were not acknowledged or answered.

SIR J. GORST replied that the Secretary of State had no information officially on the matters stated in the question. The Governor-General of India is empowered by Regulation III of 1818 to detain persons without trial for reasons of State. The communications addressed by the Sheikh to the Secretary of State have been forwarded to India, and the Secretary of State awaits a reply from the Government of India before taking any action thereon.

MR. Conybeare asked if it were the custom of the Viceroy of India, or those under him, to kidnap men and keep them for nine months without bringing them to trial.

SIR J. Gorst; No Sir; that is not at all the custom. Mr. Conybeare's question apparently has reference to the arrest of a supposed Russian agent reported in the Bombay papers some months ago. The story was, however, promptly denied by the Bombay police.

THE Bishop of Calcutta proceeds to England on leave by the P. and O. steamer *Rome* which leaves Bombay on the 7th proximo.

THE Eastern Frontier expedition drags on its slow length and the public are treated to news of success now and then in the shape of telegraphic bulletins. The Kanhow tribe has been subdued and their chiefs captured; the Kanhow column has returned to Fort White which is being rapidly pulled down, the buildings having been transferred to what is known as the fifth stockade. An expedition has been undertaken against the Novengal tribe who have been cutting up wires in the neighbourhood of Fort White. Some resistance is said to be expected from them.

THE Rangoon bar requires a little wholesome looking after, but we have had several notable vagaries in that quarter within a short time. The latest development is a Mr. Hare, who returned from England a few days ago and committed most unaccountable assaults upon a variety of persons. He was taken to be insane, but was found not to be so. He was prosecuted, and the prosecutor's Counsel, Mr. Moylan, got several blows for his pains, while the Magistrate escaped by inflicting a light fine. This made Mr. Hare all the more brave, and we read in a Rangoon telegram to the ***Englishman*** :

The leniency shown to Mr. Hare by the Magistrate a few days since appears to have encouraged him to greater violence. He forced his way into Mr. Moylan's house last night, seriously alarming the inmates. To-day he several times visited Mr. Hannay's office, armed, it was said, with a revolver. Fortunately Mr. Hannay was out. He met, however, both Mr. Hannay and Mr. Moylan in the street, and attempted to assault the former, but was prevented and arrested. He has now been remanded without bail till Monday. Several violent scenes took place near the Court between Mr. Hare and the Police.

Either the mistaken leniency will be practically regretted, or Mr. Hare ought to be in the Lunatic Asylum.

Friday, 13th March.

SIR CHARLES ELLIOTT is expected to make a tour in April, going first to Julpaiguri, then through Purneah to Nya Dumka in the Sonthal Pergunnahs.

A Missing link in Indian History.—Sir W. Hunter writes to the *Times* :—

It is due to the Royal Asiatic Society to note that it has awakened to the wider interest which is taken in England with regard to Indian subjects. Under its new President, Lord Northbrook, it has matured a scheme for a series of popular lectures by eminent Orientalists. The services of Professor Max Muller have been secured for the opening address on the 4th of March; and efforts are being made to infuse a larger measure of practical interest into its monthly proceedings. At its last meeting Mr. Peterson, the Sanskrit Professor at Bombay, dealt with one of the great difficulties which underlies the study of Indian history. That difficulty is one of dates. Indian scholars were long content to accept the traditional dates for the two best-known Indian eras, and built up a fair-seeming chronology on them. The archæological researches of the late Mr. James Fergusson gave a rude shock to the edifice thus constructed. He came to the conclusion that the whole of native tradition had gone wrong by 600 years with regard to the fundamental era of Vikramaditya, and that the sovereign who set it up reigned in 544 A.D., instead of 56 B.C., as formerly accepted. A yawning gulf was thus suddenly opened in the continuity of Indian history, and this gulf Professor Peterson now claims to have filled up. Mr. Fergusson had based his argument on the fact that it was impossible to bring forward any contemporaneous evidence of the use of the Vikrama era in India prior to the sixth century A.D. Professor Max Muller, in enforcing this view, struck the keynote of the situation by the admission that "the whole theory would collapse if one single coin or stone could be produced dated (contemporaneously) 543 of the Samvat of Vikrama." Professor Peterson claims to have produced the missing stone. While employed by the Government of India in the search for Sanskrit manuscripts, he received information from a native scholar which led to the identification of an inscription from its mention of the reigning sovereign at the time, with the year 472 A.D. Dr. G. Buhler, of Vienna, a schblar good alike at stones and books, has arrived at a similar conclusion as to the era being in use before 544 A.D., from a re-examination of the poetical literature of India during the early centuries of the Christian method of reckoning time. This view is supported on independent grounds by Dr. F. Kielhoro, of Gottingen. The net result is in the opinion of these three distinguished scholars, to overthrow the theory of a great dividing gulf in Snaskrit literature, and to rebut the presumption which had been raised against the continuous development of that literature. Each of the three had the advantage of local investigations in the Bombay Presidency, and their labours will give a fresh impulse to the study of Indian history by restoring the ancient land-mark which seemed to have been so rudely thrown down. The other side has, however, yet to reply; and peculiar interest will thus attach to Professor Max Muller's inaugural lecture before the Royal Asiatic Society on the "Antiquity of Oriental Literature."

THE Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* has kept the British public pretty well-informed as to what has been going on in connection with the Consent Bill agitation, as will appear from the following telegrams :

"The Standing Committee appointed at the Calcutta Meeting of the opponents to the Age of Consent Bill has published a number of medical opinions which it has collected. The writers are, with one exception, native practitioners. They all assert that puberty is frequently attained before the age of 12, and that they have never seen a case of injury to a child-wife from premature co-habitation and that therefore the Bill is unnecessary.

The opposition to the Bill continues to be active throughout Bengal, but its tactics appear somewhat changed, and most of the meetings, instead of asking the Government to drop the Bill entirely, suggest the modification of it by the substitution of attainment of puberty for the age of 12. Notwithstanding Mr. Hume's letter, the Congress resolved to adhere to the policy of not taking up any social question, for it has not issued any official expression of its views on this subject, and some Government members of that party, who have been openly stated to be opposed to the Bill have not denied the statement. On the other hand, Mr. Monomohun Ghose, one of the leaders of the advanced party, has published a paper in which, while arguing that the measure is not the best or most effectual remedy for the evils which undoubtedly exist, urges the Government to pass a law declaring no marriage to be valid if either party to it is under the age of 12."

"The Indian Association of Calcutta writing to the Government on the subject of the Age of Consent Blll, express approval of it, and would even raise the age to 13, but they suggest that the measure should not be applied to communities whose religious customs enjoin the practice aimed at. They also suggest that the offence should not be treated as synonymous with rape, and that a Magistrate should not issue process except upon judicial inquiry." "The British Indian Association, a body representing the landed proprietors of Bengal, held a meeting to consider the Age of Consent Bill. Maharaja Sir Norendra Krishna presided. Resolutions were passed to the effect that the measure was an interference with Hindu religious law, and that a telegram protesting against the Bill should be sent to the Secretary of State."

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Saturday, 14th March.

THE *Indian Nation* speaking of the Report of the Select Committee on the Consent Bill observes :—

If the Bill as amended by the Select Committee is passed the law will be as follows :—

A man or even a boy of 13 may be convicted of rape on his wife and punished.

That the wife, though under 12, has attained puberty will be no defence.

That she gave consent or provoked the husband or sustained no injury whatever, will be no defence.

That the husband *bona fide*, believed the wife to be above twelve years of age would be no defence.

It would be possible for a Magistrate to take cognisance of the offence, (1) upon receiving a complaint of facts which constitute such offence, (2) upon a police report of such facts, (3) upon information received from any person other than a Police-Officer, or upon his own knowledge or suspicion, that such offence has been committed.

There is nothing to prevent the wife in such cases being summoned as a witness and asked questions which would convict the husband.

Where the wife on her completing the twelfth year is found to be with child the presumption would be that the husband was guilty.

How many persons, and under what circumstances, may be charged with abetment or with illegal omission to inform the authorities, it is needless to speculate.

THE following extract is from the *Statesman* :

"In connection with the statement of Sir John Gorst an article of a most extraordinary character appeared on 9th March last in the columns of a local contemporary. We are told, in the first place, that the announcement that Her Majesty's Government has no intention of withdrawing the Bill, "removes somewhat from the Government of Lord Lansdowne the responsibility for the measure." Beyond remarking that it is a little hazardous to base any conclusion of the kind on the wording of a Reuter's telegram this expression of our contemporary's opinion may very well be allowed to pass. Whatever may have been the part actually taken by the Home Government in the intention of the Bill it seems *prima facie* improbable that they would take the ostensible responsibility for it out of the hands of the local Government—we might almost say, that they would set aside the local Government—by announcing that her Majesty's Government had no intention of withdrawing the Bill. The probability, we should think, is that what Sir John Gorst really said, was either that the Government of India had no intention of withdrawing the Bill, or that Her Majesty's Government had no intention of ordering its withdrawal. This, at all events, would be more in accordance with constitutional usage, of which, as will be seen from what follows, our contemporary seems to take very little account. But a much more serious solecism is involved in the further argument which the writer bases on the telegram. After accusing the opponents of the Bill, on grounds which, as far as least as the great majority of them are concerned, have no existence, of grossly libelling the Viceroy and his Council in connection with the Bill, he tells us that the telegram referred to "carries the question further back;" that, in short the opponents in question are casting their "disloyal" imputations on Her Majesty's Government, inasmuch as they are "clearly responsible" for the Bill. He then goes on to ask whether it is to be supposed that "Her Majesty would sanction any measure that she thought would be detrimental to the people of India," or that Her Majesty is actuated by "base or ulterior motives;" and he points out that "there is no part of Her Majesty's dominions which receives such warm sympathy from the Empress as does India," and so on. Now, to begin with even supposing that the opponents of the Bill, or any of them had cast "disloyal imputations" on the Viceroy and his Council in connection with the Bill, no subsequent information showing that the primary responsibility rested with some one else, could "carry the question further back" in the sense of converting the imputations against one set of persons into imputations against another set of persons. But let that pass. What more concerns us is the singular ignorance of facts and the palpable violation of decorum involved in dragging Her Majesty's name into connection with this matter. Our contemporary must surely be aware that even in the case of Acts of the British Legislature, though a certain theoretical responsibility rests with the Crown in respect of the final assent necessary to their becoming law, not only is there nothing in fact to warrant the association of the name of the Sovereign with any other responsibility for legislation in any of its stages, but it is a violation of an usage which constitutional considerations as well as consideations of personal delicacy, have imposed on Englishmen, to speak of the reigning Sovereign as if the case were otherwise. There has, we are aware, been a certain amount of gossip which may, or may not, have any foundation, and which, in all probability, has none, about the interest that a certain Royal and Imperial personage is supposed to take in the Bill; and as long as such gossip is confined to the columns of society papers, or quotations from them, it is less injurious than silly. But it is a totally different matter when a respectable journalist, in a serious article, comes to crediting the Queen-Empress with official responsibility for an unpopular piece of legislation, and, not content with thus placing her in an invidious position, makes the assumption the ground of ridiculous and unjust charges against other people."

MR. RUTHERFORD's appointment as Traffic Superintendent, East Indian Railways, is settled.

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The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1891.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASPECT OF THE SCOBLE BILL.

DURING the Irish land controversy, when it was urged in justification of the proposed encroachments upon the rights of Irish landlords, that it was not the first time that their rights would be interfered with for the good of the community, the Earl of Beaconsfield very properly observed that one wrong could not justify another, and that because wrong had been once done to the landholders that was no reason why a new wrong should be done them, but that it was on the contrary a good reason why they should be protected from further injury and why more consideration than ever should be shown them. Finding that the religious objection to the Age of Consent Bill is altogether unassailable, our contemporary of the *Pioneer* and some other advocates of the measure, have pointed to legislative action in the matter of *Sutees*, the law of inheritance and widow marriage as precedents justifying interference with religion on the present occasion. The policy underlying this recommendation is on the face of it unsound and its ethics far from commendable. No wrong could justify the commission of another. If in the face of repeated pledges, Government have ever done anything in direct contravention of their profession of religious toleration it could give them no sort of right to do fresh violence to the religion of any section of the community.

But is it true that the religious objection of the Hindus to any legislative measure was ever unceremoniously set at nought on previous occasions? We emphatically deny the allegation, and we shall support our position by reference to the enactments themselves. Before the burning of *sutees* was declared illegal and made punishable by law, the feelings and opinions of the people were fully consulted and the religious aspect of the measure fully examined. It was found that in many instances the practice was "shocking to the Hindus themselves and in their eyes unlawful and wicked", and it was further held, as we find from the preamble of Regulation XVII of 1829, that "it is nowhere enjoined by the religion of the Hindus as an imperative duty; on the contrary, a life of purity and retirement on the part of the widow is more especially and preferably inculcated." It is clear, therefore, that in prohibiting the burning of sutees, the Government of the day neither interfered with the religious beliefs and usages of the people nor interdicted a practice which the people did not themselves deem unlawful and wicked.

What is called the Lex loci Act does not require much comment. We are surprised to see what perverse use has been made of it during the present controversy. We shall, therefore, trace its history from the very beginning. In 1793, the very first year in which a complete Code of Regulations for the Government of the country was promulgated, Regulation IV of that year provided that, "In suits regarding succession, inheritance, marriage, and caste, and all religious usages and institutions, the Mahomedan laws with respect to Mahomedans, and the Hindu laws with regard to Hindus, are to be considered as the general rules by which the Judges are to form their decisions." The provision was repeated in Regulation III of 1803 and Regulation VII of 1832. Experience, however, of the working of the law exposed what appears to us to be a palpable defect in it. There was no provision in the law before 1832 for dealing with cases in which the parties were of different religious persuasions. Act VII of that year, therefore, provided that "It is hereby declared, however, that the above rules are intended and shall be held to apply to such persons only as shall be *bona fide* professors of those regulations at the time of the application of the law to the case, and were designed for the protection of the rights of such persons, not for the deprivation of the rights of others. Whenever, therefore, in any civil suit, the parties to such suit may be of different persuasions, when one party shall be of the Hindu, and the other of the Mahomedan persuasion, or where one or more of the parties to the suit shall not be either of the Mohomedan or Hindu, persuasions, the laws of those religions shall not be permitted to operate to deprive such party or parties of any property to which, but for the operation of such laws, they would have been entitled". No body can contend for a moment that the principles thus enunciated are unsound. We fail to think of any other which could govern the rights of parties in such cases. The so-called Lex loci Act, Act XXI of 1850, did nothing but "extend the above principles throughout the territories subject to the Government of the East Indian Campany". The obvious object of the law was to secure people in the observance of their religious rites and usages and not to do violence to such rites and usages. That such a law should be cited as a precedent for the enactment of a measure in direct violation of the religious beliefs of the people, is a wonder to us.

The only other enactment to which reference has been made during the present controversy is the widow marriage Act of 1856, but it will be found on referring to the preamble of that Act, that it was merely a permissive Act passed for the benefit of those who believed the marriage of Hindu widows to be authorized by their religion, and that it did not, in the remotest extent, touch the religious feelings and usages of those who were of a contrary opinion. The preamble recites, "whereas many Hindus believe that this imputed legal incapacity, although it is in accordance with established custom, is not in accordance with a true interpretation of the precepts of their religion and desire that the civil law administered by the Courts of Justice shall no longer prevent those Hindus who may be so minded from adopting a different custom, in accordance with the dictates of their own conscience, and whereas it is just to relieve all such Hindus from this legal incapacity of which they complain; &c &c &c &." In no possible way, therefore, can the widow-marriage Act help the supporters of the Bill.

We have thus conclusively shown that the present Bill is the very first measure which has created a wide-spread distrust upon the policy of Government in regard to the religious beliefs and usages of the people, and that it is the very first attempt on the part of the Government to assail their religion on the plea of doing good to the community. That Government should seriously think of passing such a measure is what we fail to understand. Only a few years ago, Government was loud in their declaration of the necessity of consulting the views and wishes of the people in regard to Legislative measures. We confess we are unable to make out what urgent necessity exists for passing the Consent Bill in the face of this wide-spread opposition to its principles. No body doubts that Government is strong enough to be able to ignore such opposition, but as devotedly loyal subjects we feel it our bounden-duty to represent to our rulers that it is with deep pain and sorrow that we view that reckless disregard of the feelings and opinions, not only of those native noblemen and gentlemen who have all along deserved well of the Government, but also of the vast millions who fail to appreciate the benevolent intentions of Government, but who are keenly sensitive in the matter of their religion, and with whom the observance of rites and customs handed down from their ancestors is a sacred trust. We shall not condescend to discuss the question as to whether the powerful outburst of feeling which the Bill has evoked is at all spurious. Those who have represented to Government that it is not a genuine demonstration, but merely a simulated display of feeling resulting from a got-up agitation, have taken upon themselves a responsibility of the gravity of which they have not evidently an adequate conception.

THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT.

ONE of the arguments in the mouth of the supporters of the Consent Bill is that if it interferes with the Hindu ceremony of *Garbhadhana*, the interference is not a new one, but is as old as the Penal Code which became law some 30 years ago, and interdicted sexual intercourse between man and wife when the latter was under 10 years of age, even though she got the *ritu* before that age. The answer that the opponents to the Bill have given to this argument is that because the Penal Code interfered with the ceremony of *Garbhadhana* in one case out of a hundred thousand, that is no reason why Government should now pass a measure in which there would be interference, say in 30 cases out of every hundred. This answer is of course satisfactory so far as it goes. But, as we have pointed out, the Penal Code, as it stands, does not interfere with *Garbhadhana*. The following text of Vyasa in Madhava's Parasara *Smriti* and in *Nirnaya Sindhu* points to the fact, that according to the *Sastras*, *Garbhadhana* was not compulsory on a girl getting *ritu* before 10.

"Vyasa lays down the exception to the rule mentioned before of sin being committed in not approaching the wife at *ritu*."

1. "One who is ill, who is in prison, who is absent on certain days of the moon called *parva*, is free from the sin of *Bhrunahatya* (murder of a child in the womb) in not approaching his wife even at *ritu*."

2. "Not approaching a wife who is either old, barren, unchaste, or whose children do not live, or who is not *pushpita* (*i. e.* has not flowered or got the *ritu*), or who is a *kanya* (a girl of 10 years of age) and one who has many sons, one is free from fear (of sin)."

From the second text of Vyasa quoted above, it would seem that there is no sin in not approaching a wife who is a *kanya*. As the term *kanya* has been defined by Parasara, the father of Vyasa, to mean a girl, who is 10 years of age, it follows that if a girl gets *ritu* before 10, consummation of marriage is not compulsory. So that the existing provision of the Penal Code does not, strictly speaking, interfere with Hindu Religion. It must be confessed, however, that this second text of Vyasa is not without its difficulties. There are reasons to suppose that it cannot be taken as simply laying down exceptions to the general rule of sexual intercourse at the time of *ritu*. These may be briefly stated as follows:

1. Both the texts of Vyasa have been quoted in this connection, as laying down exceptions to the obligatory rule of sexual intercourse at *ritu*, in the Parasara *Smriti* of Madhava, as also in the *Nirnaya Sindhu*. But the first of the two texts, and not the second, is quoted in the *Viramitrodaya*. This may be owing to the author of the *Viramitrodaya* having felt that this second text could not be taken as to be meant solely to lay down an exception to the rule of sexual intercourse at *ritu*.

2. The word *Briddha*, old, has been explained in the *Nirnaya Sindhu* as *gatarajaskam*, one whose catamenia has ceased (through old age). When the author of the *Nirnaya Sindhu* gives this meaning to the word *Briddha*, it is evident that he also does not think that the text applies only to cases of sexual intercourse at *ritu*.

3. The word *apushpita* also, which means one who has not flowered, that is one in whom catamenia has not appeared, occurs in the text. Some supporters of the Bill, taking the text as applying only to cases of sexual intercourse at *ritu*, have attempted to explain this word as meaning one who, though she has got the *ritu*, has not reached such maturity as to fit her for child-bearing, This position is, to say the best, untenable. No authoritative commentators have ever taken the word *pushpita* in such a sense. According to the Rules of Sanskrit Grammar, such an interpretation is simply impossible. Grammatically, the word *apusphita* can only mean one who has not got the catamenia, the word *pusphita* meaning one who has got the catamenia. It can never refer to the negation of a qualified *puspha* or catamenia. Such an interpretation has indeed nothing to support it, except the fact that it occurs in a text which is supposed to apply to cases of sexual intercourse at *ritu*. But as has been already shown there are strong

reasons in support of the view that the text can not refer exclusively to such cases.

Some supporters of the Bill again want to take the word *kanya* as meaning a girl of 12. But it is scarcely necessary to say that there is no authority whatever for this interpretation. On the contrary, Parasara, the father of the text-writer, as has already been said, has expressly laid down that *kanya* technically means a girl of 10 years.

It seems unnecessary to discuss this text further. It is, however, only fair to mention that some would construe the word *pushpita* as qualifying the word *kanya*, instead of taking it by itself. Others again would take the word *kanya* as meaning a Kumari, a virgin, or unmarried girl.

If either of these is the right interpretation, then the argument based upon this text that the existing provision of the Penal Code does not do violence to the Sastric rule of consummation of marriage at the first *ritu*, would fall to the ground.

From the above discussion it is evident that whatever may be the right interpretation of the text, it lends no countenance whatever to the supporters of the Bill.

Opportunity may here be taken to note another text which is said to be much relied upon by the supporters of the Bill. The text is as follows :—

सखिभार्य्या कुमारी च सगोत्रा शरणागता ।
साध्वी प्रव्रजिता राज्ञी निक्षिप्ता च रजस्वला ॥
* * * * * * *
आसामन्यतमां गच्छेद् गुरुतल्पग उच्यते ।
बृद्धहारीतसंहिता ।

"A friend's wife, a virgin, one of the same *gotra* (family), one who seeks protection, a chaste woman, an ascetic woman, a queen, one cast away or abandoned, and one at the time of *ritu* &c. &c. He who has sexual intercourse with any of these is said to defile the bed of his *guru* (Spiritual father). In a printed edition of the *Sanhita* there occurs a misprint in the first word, where it is spelt with a long *i* (Sakhi) instead of the short *i* (Sakhi). On the strength of this misprint, the first three words of the text have been taken to mean a female friend and a *kumari* wife of 12 years (the word *kumari* being explained to mean a girl of 12 years); and thus the text has been pressed into the service of the supporters of the Bill. A little consideration will, however, show that this cannot be done. There are texts equivalent to the above in which the word Sakhi (with the short *i*) meaning a male friend, or an equivalent word as *Mitra* is used, leaving no doubt that of this text the true reading is *Sakhi* (with the short *i*) and that *not* with the long *i*."

We would refer those who question this to the text of Manu quoted in p. 194 of *Prayaschitta Viveka*. The point to note in the text is that the words *Sakhyuh Strishu* (friend's wives) distinctly occurs. The same work (p. 193) quotes also a text of Vishnu in which the word *Mitrapatnyavigamana*, sexual intercourse with the wife of a Mitra (a male friend), distinctly occurs.

Making much of corrupt reading can only have the effect of proving to what straits the supporters of the Bill are reduced; it can prove nothing else.

It is due to the Hindu community which strongly oppose the Bill on the ground of its interference with their religious beliefs and practices, that Government should give them an opportunity of answering the arguments, based upon alleged texts, advanced by the supporters of the measure. The position taken up by the Hon'ble Sir Romes Chandra Mitra, that the Legislature, as at present constituted, is not competent to decide a Sastric question like the present, is certainly a a strong one. In a matter like this, when a large section of the Hindu people feel and say that their religious beliefs and practices would be interfered with, Government ought to accept the statement, without going into the question whether their beliefs and practices are justified or not by their Sastras. If, however, Government does take upon itself to decide the question for itself, it ought, at any rate to give the people, who are chiefly interested in the matter, and who feel that their religion is going to be interfered with in the face of solemn pledges to the contrary, an opportunity of answering their opponents. They know that men like the venerable Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and Mahamahopadhaya Mahesa Chandra Nyayaratna, have unequivocally given it as their opinion that the religious objection to the Bill is a sound one, and they consider the opinion on a Sastric question by such men as a settler. If, however, Government considers otherwise, it ought in fairness to give them an opportunity of answering the arguments advanced on the Government side. It is true, that to do this, it will be necessary to postpone the passing of the measure for sometime. But the matter is not of such urgency that it cannot be postponed. We humbly implore Government not to decide the question, without hearing the reply of Pandits. If it does so and ends as it began by saying that in its opinion the measure would not do the slightest violence to Hindu social or religious practices, and passes the Bill into law without even the substitution of the age of puberty for its arbitrary limit of 12 years, to meet the religious objection to the Bill, it will in the eyes of the people lay itself open to the charge of deliberate unfairness.

THE MEDICAL ASPECT.

THE supporters of the Age of Consent Bill seem to derive their main strength from the supposition that all modern approved medical theories justify the raising of the age from ten to twelve years. How utterly false this supposition is, it is our object to show from a letter received from Dr. Juggo Bundhu Bose, whom the Managing Committee of the British Indian Association invited to express his opinion on the subject, as a medical practitioner of long and varied experience.

The first avowed object of this Bill is to protect girl-wives from personal iujury, on the supposition that such injuries are very common. But where is the evidence to show that they are so? The testimony of the medical men consulted by the Sobhabazar Standing Committee goes against the supposition. Native midwives have not been able to report a single case to support it. Even the medical officers consulted by the Government have not given us any cases of such injury. The positive evidence available on this head is derived, first from Phulmani's case; secondly, from the cases reported by certain Lady Doctors, and thirdly, from official statistics of rape cases. But Phulmani's case is not illustrative. Dr. Cobbe, who had held *post mortem* examination over Phulmani's body, said, that she must have had intercourse on several previous occasions. Hence nothing short of brutal and violent conduct on the part of her husband could lead to a fatal result, and this might have been quite possible even if she were a grown-up woman. The Lady Doctors have given us only 13 cases, out of which four were of girls below ten, who are already protected; one was a case of difficult labour, and three of unnatural offence, leaving only about five cases to corroborate the statement regarding personal injury. Dr. McLeod gives 48 cases of rape of young girls. But inasmuch as even grown-up women are badly injured when ravished, nothing can be inferred from such cases.

Not only is there no evidence to prove that personal injury is very commonly inflicted on girl-wives by their husbands, but we can argue *a priori* from the actual state of affairs in our society, that no such injury is inflicted. In the first place, the husbands of our girls are not full-grown adults but boys, with whom, connection, even if it takes places, is not likely to be painful. In the second place, connection is directly harmful, in the way of causing injury, in proportion as the sexual passion is strong. The strength of the passion again depends upon (1) the age and development of the parties, and (2) the growth of the senses and the imagination. Both these circumstances are wanting in the boy-husband or the girl-wife. In the third place, Hindu husbands, living as they do under the very eyes of their guardians, cannot but be cautious and circumspect, as any rashness may lead to exposure in a variety of ways.

The second object of the proposed legislation is the prevention of permanent injury to the girl-wife. The consideration of this involves two important and preliminary issues, *viz.*

(1) Whether the appearance of a certain well-known event in the female is a sign that she has attained puberty.
(2) Whether the reproductive process interferes with the natural growth of an organism.

With reference to the first, Physiologists and Gynæcologists are unanimously of opinion that *the first appearance of menstruation coincides with the establishment of puberty*. Foster observes that "with the occurrence of menstruation at from 13 to 17 years of age (this is in England) the girl almost *at once* becomes a woman." Landor and Stirling observe that "the term puberty is applied to the period at which a human being becomes capable of procreating. In warm climates puberty may occur in girls even at 8 years of age." Brinton in translating Valentine observes "that the period of puberty is characterised in the female by the appearance of menstruation and the capacity of being pregnant." Barne observes that "the age at which menstruation first appears is usually that at which puberty is attained." Playfair observes that the first appearance of menstruation coincides with the establishment of puberty, and the physical changes that accompany it indicate that the female is capable of conception and child-bearing." Thomas More Madden of Dublin observes that "in the female when puberty is reached, the individual passes at a bound, as it were, from childhood to womanhood." Macnaughton Jones observes that "the flow of blood is the outward and visible sign of the completion of the ovarian function of ovulation or the full development of a Grffian follicle, its rupture and the escape of the ovum." According to Lawson Tait, the whole process of ovulation goes on before puberty or the first menstruation, this latter fact indicating only the completion of those developmental changes in the female reproductive organs which prepare the woman for child-bearing.

It is said that menstruation as it occurs in this country is not a normal phenomenon, but is hastened by premenstrual intercourse with husbands and so is abnormally brought on. In saying this, the influences of race, climate, heredity, mode of life and other surrounding circumstances are altogether lost sight of. Graily Hewitt says: "The mean age of the appearance of the catamenia appears to be about *two years earlier* in the warmer than in the more temperate climates. Later on, he further observes, "climate is really the determining element in the difference observed between extremely hot and extremely cold climates, a difference represented by from 3 to 4 years." Joulin says "that menstruation sets in the temperate latitudes (*i.e.*, between lat. 33o and 54o) towards the fifteenth year; in the hot regions (*i.e.*, between 33o and the Equator) about the twelfth year; and in the cold regions (*i.e.*, between 54o and the Pole) about the fifteenth or the sixteenth." "The easier classes who live luxuriously, generally menstruate early and freely, whilst those who live hard laborious lives menstruate later. "As an instance of race influence," he says, "Jewesses, whatever their habitat, menstruate generally somewhat earlier than girls of the Saxon origin." Raciborski also points out that in Austria, girls of the Magyar race menstruate considerably later than those of German parentage. Leishman says; "The time of first menstruation varies greatly according to the climate, constitution and the kind of life that is led." Harris states that "among the Hindus 1 to 2 p.c. menstruate as early as nine years of age; 3 to 4 p.c. at ten; 8 p. c. at eleven and 25 p.c. at twelve." Playfair also gives importance to the surroundings of girls, their manner of education and living in determining the age of menstruation. Thus it is quite clear that the theory that in this country early menstruation is abnormally brought on by pre-menstrual intercourse is entirely false and untenable.

With reference to the second issue, *viz.*, whether the reproductive process interferes with the natural growth of an organism, the most recent theory of Charles Sedgwick Minot is, that reproduction far from leading to a loss of vital force, gets its stimulus therefrom. Growing guinea pigs will bear one-third of their own weight of young, while growing, and still reach as full an adult-size as those producing no young.

(Hensen) According to Minot, they grow even larger. Assimilative power is not necessarily equal only to the needs of the growing animal. In reality, there is a large excess of assimilation possible within normal limits. Hufeland observes: "A certain abundance in the power of generation is favorable to longevity. It forms an addition to vital power."

Having disposed of the two preliminary issues, we take up the main subject, *viz.*, the infliction of permanent injuries on the mother by early child-bearing, for consideration. Such injuries can be divided into two classes:

(1) Those disorders, such as difficult labor, profuse bleeding after child-birth, rupture of the perineum, &c., which are said to be due to early pregnancy. In discussing this question, we are hopelessly in want of statistics. No generalisation can be drawn from 13, 48, or even 127 cases. We must show, not only that they are frequent among young girls, but that they are more frequent among them than among grown-up women. It may perhaps be here observed that it is in the experience of many of our practitioners that girls between the ages of 11 and 15 often go through labour in perfect safety, whereas above 20 tedious labour is almost the rule. Lawson Tait speaking of English women says that "laceration of the perineum to some extent is the almost inevitable result of a first labor."

(2.) Those diseases that are supposed to be the indirect result of early child-bearing, as displacement of the uterus &c. Now it is quite open to question how far these are due to the alleged cause. "There are so many and varied influences at work and it is so very difficult to determine what share is contributed by each to the total effects on our constitution, that it would be in the highest degree unscientific to speak of any one of them as having mainly to answer for evils that are certainly the joint effects of all of them combined." Climate, malaria, want of exercise, the insanitary condition of our houses and chiefly of our lying-in chambers, the improper management of the puerperal state, a luxurious and artificial style of living, the conditions of life in towns and the increasing poverty of the people—all have a most pernicious influence on our constitutions. Lawson Tait says that "Just as civilization advances, so does the increment of sexual trouble among women."

The third object of the Bill is to prevent the physical deterioration of the race. We would refer those who would study this question to the able paper sent in by Raja Rajendralala Mitra to Govenment. The Raja has conclusively shown that deterioration in the sense taken by the framers of the proposed legislative measure is unknown in science. It is a product of the warm imagination of our 'reformers', and has no existence in reality. Dr. Juggo Bundhu Bose has shown that in considering this question, the weight of many other complex factors besides early maternity should be taken into calculation. It is utterly impossible to thow much light upon such an obscure question, and no practical legislation can be based upon shadowy and unsubstantial grounds.

The Age of Consent Bill, by fixing the time for consummation of marriage at twelve years, lays itself open to objection on medical grounds. On the one hand, many girls menstruate at a later age. These girls need protection far more than healthy girls who menstruate earlier. But the Bill leaves them entirely unprotected. On the other hand, it has been clearly shown that the appearance of the menses means the establishment of puberty. The most reasonable, and the most natural thing, therefore, would be to fix upon the age of puberty (as indicated by the appearance of the menses), as the time when consummation of marriage should be allowed.

THE SOCIAL ASPECT.

WE now pass on to a more important aspect of the measure, namely social or rather social, socio-political and socio-religious. The representations that have been made to Government have, while laying due stress on the purely religious aspect, have not lost sight of the more practical bearings of the Bill, namely the social results sure to emanate from its passing into law. We have from time to time touched upon these serious results which every intelligent mind must apprehend, and we once more desire to lay them beforeGovernment for serious consideration, before it finally accords its sanction to this obnoxious enactment. The British Indian Association in its letter to the Government of India pointed out that complete disassociation of husbands and wives cannot take place under the present organisation of Hindu society in Bengal. All our social institutions must be upset, before wives could be altogether excluded from the company of their husbands. One of our most sacred ordinances is that 'a man must perform his religious rites accompanied by his wife.' If a man is married, the company of his wife becomes necessary for the performance of certain religious rites. If the present measure be passed into law, it will be expedient and wise for husbands to be kept apart from their wives, who are below the age of twelve, and the consequence will be that they will both be deprived of the benefit of the religious rites referred to above.

THIS, though it has a certain religious bearing on the question, has also important social bearings. The mode of life in Hindu house-holds must be thoroughly recast and remodelled if we are not to be a nation of undetected criminals. No Government measure can effect such a large revolution in the social structure of any community by its legislative fiat, or by its behest being rigorously enforced for the matter of that. The husband and wife will be thrown together inspite of the law, and things may happen that will not only ensure the girl-wife's perpetual widowhood during her husband's life-time, but may make her parents or parents-in-law the companions in travel of her erring lord. For a legitimate enforcement of the law of abetment must result in the breaking up of households, though no crime may be actually committed. The young couple may not be allowed to live *as* married persons, but, as the British Indian Association goes on to point out, it would be extremely undesirable that they should not live under the same paternal roof of their common guardian. They cannot be brought up as total strangers and the affection of each must reach and be felt by the other. "To avoid one danger of premature maternity from the prevailing usage of Bengali Hindu society, the young people would necessarily be exposed to very serious consequences of other kinds, were they compelled to avoid each other's company. Young husbands when forced into a bachelor life are often permanently ruined, and do irreparable injury to their wives, both morally and physically. A child-wife when left to the care of her parents and separated from her husband is sadly deprived of the educative influence of her father-in-law's family. A poor family cannot afford to let the young bride get confirmed in the ways of her parents' life belonging to a higher station. On the other hand, a rich family would object to keep her in the poverty to which her parents may have been born. When the child-wife has the misfortune to lose her parents, she must be exposed to objectionable, not to say sinister, influences, unless she could be removed to the house of her husband's father. If, however, the young couple are allowed to live as married persons, the prohibition required by the proposed law in respect of sexual indulgence, practically speaking, becomes impossible to be enforced; and if married life have to be forbidden, either other serious consequences will ensue, or the marriage itself will have to be deferred." It may not be amiss to remind our readers that what may be achieved by persons not standing in the relation of husband and wife may not be difficult of achievement by people who have some sort of sanction to approach each other. The Association goes on to point out that apart from religious considerations, husbands and wives must take part in social ceremonies, under the present social organisation. If a man is married, however young the wife may be, she must assist her husband's household to perform all domestic ceremonies. These ceremonies really form an essential feature—and that an all-important one—of her education in our joint-family system. These ceremonies are numerous in a Hindu family, and the presence of the wife is absolutely necessary when they are celebrated. In joy and in sorrow, on festive occasions, and in time of mourning, the wife must be in the family, and reared to participate in the joy and sorrow of her husband, and of the other members of her husband's family. Whether these social institutions are good or bad, civilized or uncivilized, in the European sense of the terms, is a question which it is unnecessary to enter into. Suffice it to say that these institutions have crystallized into shape by the action of thousands of years, they hold the Hindu Society together in their present form, and to subvert, nay even to do violence to, them, will be to destroy Hindu Society altogether. This is a contingency which ought to be borne in mind in legislating upon questions bearing upon our religious and social institutions. If association be prohibited, marriage must be prohibited also. One is a necessary consequence of the other. The two must be preserved or destroyed together.

The social aspects of the question have also been fully considered by thePathuriaghata memorial, which has in many respects supplemented the other representations on the subject. The memorial observes that Hindu husbands either in youth or in advanced age are proverbially solicitous for their wives' welfare, physical, moral and religious, and that pre-menstrual consummation is as severely denounced in the Shastras as it is discountenanced by social customs. Though for a variety of reasons of the greatest importance, early marriage is one of the established and accepted institutions in Hindu society, and although it becomes sometimes necessary and desirable to bring young husbands and wives together, all possible precuations are taken to see that they do not misbehave at all, and as a matter of fact they are allowed no further liberties and indulgences than are absolutely necessary for the better knowledge of each other and for the development of that conjugal love and affection for the members of the husband's family that is the mainstay and support to the Hindu household with its many intricacies of the joint-family system. The memorial then goes on to say that it has been a custom with all respectable and orthodox Hindu families to rigidly observe the ceremony of *Dwiragaman*, which, as a rule, precludes the wife's coming to her husband's household premanently and exercising marital rights for a year after marriage except under very rare and exceptional circumstances, and the visits of the husband to the wife at her father's house when allowed during this period are judiciously few and far between. The memorial speaks of a system of delicate espionage by way of joke, but really meant to be an effective safeguard which is invariably and rigidly kept up by the female members both of the husband's and the wife's family up to a certain period of their marital life for the protection of the girl, and that the slightest infringement of the rules of propriety during that period of surveillance is regarded with the great possible disfavour in all households. No effective system of safeguard could be devised worked by the Legislature, so long as marriage continues to form an essential component of our social system. The memorial evidently refers to the practice of *Aripāta*, the *raison d'tre* for which has now been fully explained and certainly with ingenuity. The history of our marriage system in this concern is worth careful study, which few have been on it. But we shall not pursue the subject here. The memorial points out with force that low private malice and ill-will have the amplest possible scope families and individuals may be ruined disgraced by the institution or mere broach a charge, at the very mention or idea of female delicacy recoils with shudder and di Not only would perjury of a sickening de tion and abominable underhand means be a ed by those really guilty or those falsely ch with guilt, but those merely suspected, sh they happen to belong to respectable fam may, in order to screen themselves or pr their honour, be guilty of much more se offences, which in some instances may not

short of downright murder, suicide or baseless accusations against the wife.

There is one very important side of the question that has been lost to view by many, to which the Pathuriaghata memorial has drawn pointed attention. It says :—"That apart from spiritual and moral results emanating from the Bill if passed into law, which your memorialists cannot too strongly urge, an important physical result would ensue should any unfortunate accident happen, namely, should there be any the slightest doubt as to the age of the girl concerned, it will be in the highest degree improbable that the husband, with the prospect of life-long transportation before him, will call in medical aid which, if received in time, might perhaps save the girl's life or health as the case may be. There is a still more important bearing of the question which your memorialists trust will not be lost view of by the Legislature. Whatever law may be enacted, an orthodox Hindu will never consent to marry his son to a girl that has attained a certain condition of life, and parents would naturally deem it prudent to select for their sons brides who have completed their twelfth year, provided they at the same time fulfilled the further and by far the more important condition of not having attained that particular condition in question. The result of this precautionary measure would be to exclude girls menstruating before twelve from matrimony, than which a greater misery could not be possibly inflicted on Hindu girls. Another class of cases would arise, in which parents would be anxious to make the remotest suspicion of the offence impossible, by falling back upon the old and now almost obsolete custom of marrying boys and girls very early, so that the boy-husband may not have attained the age of puberty before the girl-wife does so." This will be a reactionary and retrogade movement which all friends of social reform most sincerely deplore. Having regard to social exigencies, as well as a real desire for reform so far as may be possible with due regard to religious considerations, girls in respectable Hindu families are now-a-days married as late as possible, which taken with the customary year's residence with their father after marriage, and the safe-guards referred to above, really afford them a much larger share of protection than the Legislature can ever hope to do with the most stringent regulations that it could devise and work. The cause of reform which, as a matter of fact, was steadily though slowly advancing, will meet with an effective check by this spirit of reaction.

Latest News and Notes.

SIR CHARLES ELLIOTT will receive a deputation of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce tomorrow, with reference to the Calcutta Small Cause Court. It is said that the deputation will not renew the old complaints, but discuss the ...tter with the object of assisting Government to ... a remedy. The appointment of a Com... of enquiry is considered likely in this ...ion.

THE *Statesman* hears that the Budget this ...ar is likely to be of a severely practical kind, ... D. Barbour having again to strive after an ...uilibrium, in the face of a falling rupee.

... *Bombay Gazette* hears that no definite ...ments have been made for carrying ... special work in the House of Com... ...n connection with India which Mr. ...gh had undertaken. Questions concern... ...lian affairs, which, had Mr. Bradlaugh ...live, would, in the ordinary course of ... have been put by him, have been distri... ...amongst a group of members, amongst ... Dr. Hunter, and Messrs. Walter Maclaren, ...and Conybeare have been conspicuous. ... is described, however, as the special ... which the Congress Committee in London ...ndeavouring to promote, will probably be ... up by some other member. Mr. Bryce has been asked to be Mr. Bradlaugh's successor in that regard, and there is a strong belief amongst sympathisers with the movement, that he will be the best man for it. He has promised to speak in support of the Congress Committee's amendment to Lord Cross's Council's Bill, affirming the necessity of the elective principle.

THE Defence Association sees the absurdity of settling preambles of Indian laws in England, and leaving the Indian Legislature to record the decree so to speak, and settling the clauses with due regard to the preamble. At its annual meeting held on Thursday last and regarding the Factory Bill and the Age of Consent, Bill Mr. Broughton the President observed :—

There can be little doubt, in the absence of any evidence showing the necessity of a reform in the present law which was fully discussed in 1880-81, and which is indeed shown by the evidence taken upon the Factory Commission to have worked on the whole most satisfactorily, and in the best interests of the operatives, that the moving cause in this legislation originates, not in India, but in England, at the seat of mannfacturing industries, which find themselves undersold by the mill-owners in India. I have noticed a similar suggestion in the native papers regarding the proposed amendment of the criminal law and procedure regarding child marriages. It seems then that the most important part of the Bill, namely, the preamble, is settled in England, but without the full discussion in Parliament and counsel in the Committee's rooms, which invariably attend important legislation affecting local interests in England; and that a sweeping change may be carried out by an executive order, so that there is little left to be done by the Indian Legislative Council beyond drafting the clauses of the Bill and formally passing it into law. So that it is clear that we are not taking an injudicious step in establishing an agency in England, by means of which facts relationg to proposed legislation in India can be freely ventilated by retired members of the Association, who retain their business connexion with India and are naturally affected by such changes in the law. And inasmuch as serious changes are contemplated without further discussion, and seeing that two members of the Select Committee urge the republication of the Bill as now amended, in order that these amendments may be discussed, we are, I think justified in urging upon the Government, as we have done, the importance of a free distribution of important documents relating to proposed legislation, before the Legislature is committed to specified line of action.

THE Defence Association does not of course go out of its way to condemn the details of the Consent Bill, but says enough to condemn the *modus operandi* of the Legislature. The manner in which it has been brought forward and is about to be passed cannot commend itself to any right-thinking Englishman in his senses. The Defence Association has now got a British Committee of its own to discuss and ventilate its grievances in England.

A BLIZZARD of unexampled fury has prevailed in many parts of England. Trains were blocked all night for two days in the South-Eastern counties, and the Channel packets were twelve hours late. Many wrecks have taken place along the coast, and the Lyod lifeboat, in going out to the rescue of a ship's company, was capsized. The snow-fall in London continued with unabated force and traffic was greatly impeded in the streets, for some time. Six trains are still buried in snow between Exeter and Plymouth, besides other trains in Cornwall. The passengers in the snowed-up trains have suffered terribly. Severe frosts have now set in.

The ship Bay of Panama, bound from Calcutta to Dundee, has been wrecked off Cove rock. Twenty of those on board, including the Captain and his wife and all the officers, were drowned.

THE Fisheries question is approaching a settlement. Lord Salisbury has stated that Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Ambassador at Washington, has agreed to the form of arbitration in the Behring Sea Fishery dispute as proposed in Mr. Blaine's last despatch on the subject. The *Temps* states that Great Britain and France have concluded an agreement regarding the Newfoundland Fisheries dispute. An Anglo-French agreement has been signed at the Foreign Office, whereby the Newfoundland Fisheries dispute will be submitted to arbitration.

AN important application was made before Mr. Justice Wilson in connection with the Municipal assessment of No. 14, Bulloram Ghose's Street by way of a test case. These premises, before the passing of the new Act, were assessed at Rs. 850. Subsequently the assessment was raised to Rs. 1,017; but on an objection being laid before the Chairman, that officer, having valued the property at Rs. 18,947, fixed the assement at Rs. 945. Dissatisfied with these orders, the owner carried the matter into the Small Cause Court, and the appeal was heard by Mr. J. C. Sconce, the Chief Judge, who upheld the decision of the Chairman, and dismissed the appeal with Rs. 400 as costs. The petitioner accordingly moved the High Court for a writ of *certiorari* to bring up the proceedings of the Chairman and the Small Cause Court, with the object of having them set aside, on the ground that the judgment of the Chief Judge, upholding the Chairman's assessment, was erroneous in principle and in excess of the jurisdiction conferred by the Act upon the Commissioners and the said Court, both of whom had acted illegally and with material irregularity. His Lordship, having heard Mr. Pugh, who appeared for the petitioner, saw no reason to interfere with the judgment of the Court below upholding the Chairman's assessment, but directed a writ of *certiorari* to issue on the question of costs. Mr. Pugh argued that it was absurd to contend, that if the Taj, or the Pyramids, supposing they could be transferred to Calcutta, or a couple of rooms on the ground floor of the Octorloney monument for the matter of that, could be converted into dwelling purposes, the assessment would be on the cost of original building. A man of taste would be liable to pay heavy penalties for indulging in little luxuries in the shape of painting terra cotta or marble. His Lordship did not, however, agree with Mr. Pugh and was of opinion that residental dwellings, before the new law, practically escaped taxation, and it was the rented house chiefly upon which the burden fell. This is the tenant view certainly, but not an equitable one nor consistent with facts. Mr. Pugh further contended that it was unreasonable to assess land appertaining to building at the same rate as, if it was capable of having erected on it another building of a profitable nature, say a public house. But all this did not weigh with the learned Judge, and he did not feel justified in calling up the records even to decide a test case. It may be remembered that the Chief Judge of the Small CauseCourt, in deciding the cas against the appellant, had expressed a hope that the highest tribunal in the land would correct him if he was wrong in his reading of the law or procedure, as he had actually assessed the buildings at more than what the assessor or the Chairman had assessed them at. With the lagislature, the law courts and the Government against them, the rate-payers of Calcutta are to be pitied indeed.

INDIAN questions are continuing to interest Parliament, but they are taking a groove of not quite an intelligible character to the outside public. In the House of Commons, Sir John Gorst, replying to a series of questions put by Mr. Conybeare, said that the question of promoting better sanitation for the people of India is engaging the constant attention of the Government of India. Sometimes unfortunately, as in Calcutta, dreams of a model hygiea are being dreamt with a vengence and people are tempted to pray to be saved from their sanitary friends. Another sanitary question was also before the House connected with an important economic question, as appears from the following telegram :"—In the House of Lords, Viscount Cross, replying to a question, said that the Government of India would doubtless study the alleged connection between the inadequate supply of salt to the poor in India and the prevalence of leprosy there, This is a new development of idea evidently, on which the Leprosy Commission may be able to throw some light.

LORD WENLOCK is seriously handicapped in the work of administration at its very opening, by one of those ever-recurring famines which are becoming a regular institution of India inspite of

boasted prosperity. It has been stemmed to some extent, and more than ordinary public work is not felt to be necessary in some districts. Lately speaking about the prospects of the country, His Lordship has been telling a local Association that as to education, he agreed " that it was the duty of Government to do all it could to put technical education within reach of the people. Government here is taking steps, in several directions, to provide instruction in technical matters. A college of law would also be established, if the Secretary of State sanctions the proposal, and five farm schools are to be established in various parts of the Presidency." Turning to Municipal matters, the Governor referred to complaints about the want of interest taken in local matters on the part of the best men. Personally, he should watch the development of Municipal life with the greatest interest. He acknowledged the bad sanitary condition of Madras city, and held out hopes that matters would soon be put right by Government. His Excellency has so far encouraged open public discussion of affairs. His Excellency thinks that another fifty years will pass before any decided change will take place in female education in India.

THE report of the Census Commissioner, it is stated, is not likely to be published for several months to come, owing chiefly to the fact that the work in the Bengal Presidency is far in arrear, and on account of inaccuracy in that of the other Presidencies and Provinces..

THE variety of entertainments at the Culumbia Rink in aid of the Dufferin Fund on Monday, seems to have been an unqualified success from all points of view, particularly the pecuniary. Europeans and natives vied with each other in contributing to such success and their efforts were not in vain. Inspite of Mr. Lambert's interdiction upon lotteries, " lucky bags with very nearly all prizes and hardly a blank" and " Th— S. D.—dd" flourished well.

MR. W. H. PHELPS writes to a contemporary regarding the approaching improvements in our ticcas :—

All the suggestions made by the sub-committee together with others, have been adopted, and with the consent of the Government of Bengal, will be passed into law before the next licensing day if possible. There seems to be a considerable amount of misapprehension abroad with regard to the question of fares. The 2nd-class fares are *not* going to be raised, nor are the 1st class either, but the former will remain as they were, with some important improvements in the condition of the carriages, and the 1st class fares instead of varying according to the supply and demand, will be fixed at a reasonable rate within the means of any one who aspires of a respectable drive.

ONLY, the public do not exactly comprehend what these practical improvements mean to be and the *ticca* committee might condescend to be a little more explicit. Change in the law before the next licensing day, which is some time in April next and therefore not very far off, cannot work wonders all of a sudden and you should not be very hard upon poor owners all of a sudden either. The improvement must be gradual, and as Mr. Jones always suggested, should be spread over a number of years so that the burden might not be appreciable and there might be no necessity of raising fares. Mr. Phelps does not say anything about third class hackeries, which in the long run earn more than their betters, but whose condition is a disgrace to the city. It is reform in this direction that should be taken in hand first. Moreover, a newly started company with a capital of 100,000 Rs. and a promised dividend of 12 per cent per annum, is going to place a hundred decent carriages soon in the Calcutta Streets for their special benefit. So the municipal authorities had better busy themselves with those that really, and if the truth must be told sadly, need looking after, and these are the third class hackeries and the lower order of second class vehicles in the Black city.

AT the Council Meeting on Friday last, the Bill to amend the Merchandise Marks Act was passed. The reports on Obsolete Enactments and the Inland Steam-VesselsAct were presented. The Hon'ble Sir David Barbour presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Inland Steam-vessels Act, 1884. The Hon'ble Sir Andrew Scoble presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the constitution of the Court of the Judicial Commissioner of Oudh, and alter the Law of Second Appeals and other matters in that Province.

AT Saturday's meeting of the Bengal Council, the Bill to amend the Public Demands Recovery Act, 1880, was passed. The Court of Wards Bill will be referred to a Select Committee.

SIR A. ALFRED CROFT, K. C. I. E. has been re-appointed a Member of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

SIR Charles Elliott has decided that the existing Tenancy Act should not be extended to Orissa. Would that it were not at all applied to Bengal or Behar either.

THE younger members of the Viceregal family are already in Simla. Her Excellency the Marchioness herself left the Presidency on Thursday last, as arranged before.

The successful sporting camp over His Highness the Maharaja of Kuch Behar returned to the Presidency last week. Some grand masonic doings have brought H. H. back, we are told.

OUR Nurseries are busy with their annua orchid shows. The 'Victoria' received a Viceregal visit on Tuesday last. The 'Empres s' also made a goodly show.

THE Photographic Exhibition has been opened after all, though late in the day. The opening which was to have taken place in December last according to usual practice, came off on Saturday last-without any special ceremonial. The northern wing of the Museum is the *locale* as in former years.

THE authorities in charge of the Kidderpur Docks must be perplexed a good deal at their oddities over which they have practically renounced all control. It may be a serious thing, if in time and out of it, the Docks take into their watery heads to have everything in their own clumsy way. The following as put by the *Englishman* may look as an innocent and little affair enough, of which perhaps it is impossible to take any graver notice. But every body may not view it in the same light :

By a curious chance, the newly appointed Kidderpur Dock Commitee were the last to walk over the floor of the tidal basin. In the course of their visit on Tuesday morning Messrs. O'Callagahan, J. L. Mackay, G. A. Ormiston, and Horace Bell, descended into the basin and examined the dry floor, and the same night the water got through the dam in front of the sixty-foot lock, and filled the basin. Had the inspection been deferred for a day, the Committee would have been nothing but a sheet of water. No damage has been done by the " letting in of waters." In another week the bund would have been cut, and the event has thus only been anticipated by a few days.

Perhaps there will be an enquiry as to how this accident came about. The last accident of a more serious type was not taken much notice of though. It is lucky there were no workmen about, or otherwise. the playful rush of the waters might have been a serious affair.

BETWEEN mist, fog, cloud and rain the last spell of cold weather has been extended beyond the usual limit. But much sickness prevails in the Presidency as well as out of it.

As ill-luck would have it, Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter is ill after his hard and thankless toils in connection with the Consent Bill. He is laid up and his doctors have insisted upon complete rest. Unless the Government considers it unfair and improper to dispose of the Bill in the absence of its only opponent, of which, however, there can be no reasonable hope, there will be practically no debate in the Council meeting announced for Thursday. The fates are against us and we can only bemoan our lot.

THE *St. James's Gazette* says :—The Government of India would do well to drop the Age of Consent Bill without further delay, describing it as an unfortunate attempt at social reform, undertaken not at the instance of experienced Anglo-Indians, but to please a "coterie" of fashionable philanthropists in London. Mr. Digby, the special correspondent of the *Bengalee*, says the same thing and quotes a number of authorities in strong condemnation of the measure. But then the Government is strong and has 'ample' support in this country and England and will do nothing to show that it is weak or capable of being won over by reason and argument. The *St. James's Gazette*, as an essentially conservative paper, was not of similar opinion always. When the *Gazette* and the *Spectator* write in this strain, and eminent men like Sir George Birdwood, who know India thoroughly, have spoken out as they have done, a final attempt in England at the " defence of barbarism" may not be so hopeless as appears to some. When the Government of India, at the instance of a fashionable coterie or otherwise, is bent upon setting public opinion completely at naught, we shall have no option but of trying to rouse English sympathy. The passing of the Bill into Act will not and cannot be quietly received. There ought to be a furore of demonstration against it, stronger far than hailed the mere Bill. The so-called supporters, if they have a grain of common sense left, ought to make common cause with the opposition after the Bill is passed into law.

THE reality of the agitation in Bengal, s[illegible] the Lahore morning paper, against the Age o[illegible] Consent Bill is put beyond a doubt, "if any doubt on the subject remained, by the enormous meeting, recorded in our Calcutta telegram. The unfortunate thing about this agitation is that it makes it the more difficult for Government to make any concession, which would infallibly be regarded as a triumph for popular clamour over the authorities, and would be taken as a precedent. On the other hand, it is only fair to the agitators to say that, but for the clamour which they have raised, the supporters of the Bill would have continued to declare that the opposition was insignificant." Is this a fair and becoming attitude for any Government to take up in connection with questions of vital importance to the millions? If misled by false representation of interested 'reformers", Government has made a mistake, it ought to acknowledge it at once and withdraw the obnoxious measure instead of displaying s[illegible] *zid* as the Lahore paper attributes to it. Ou[illegible] is cast in evil times indeed !

THE *Englishman* advocates compulsor[illegible] tration of marriages as the only means o[illegible] cing the Age of Consent law. The p[illegible] *modus operandi* is thus described :—

We are well aware of course that among t[illegible] castes at least the contract part of the marriage[illegible] into while the principals are extremely young[illegible] tration of such contracts would not, therefore, [illegible] cation of the time of actual marriage. But w[illegible] is interested in is the latter; and the law migh[illegible] framed so as to require a registration, of [illegible] marriage. For instance, the law might require [illegible] guardians of all minors should register the marri[illegible] both the parties had arrived at twelve years of [illegible] before actual marriage. It is to be remembe[illegible] before the latter or second marriage there is oft[illegible] sort of ceremony or public display, and in [illegible] such ceremony an infraction of the law w[illegible] easily known. The form of registration could [illegible] that two witnesses should certify that the part[illegible] over twelve.

Elaborate as the scheme is, it has n[illegible] merit of frankness, for although some disti[illegible] is made between first and second marriage[illegible] contemporary advocates only by a sort of [illegible] argument that twelve should be the minimum[illegible] riageable age for girls. This is no answer [illegible] query we made last week, as to whether our[illegible]

riage reformers would not have a maximum age as well, which is of the essence of the Hindoo law of marriage. So much for registration of marriages. This is certainly not a part of the existing machinery that Lord Dufferin contemplated in his memorable Malabari resolution of 1886, which the Government in its blind zeal for reform is riding rough shod over. Lord Dufferin distinctly was of opinion that no legislation should be undertaken on social matters which the existing machinery at the disposal of Government could not properly give effect to. But what about registration of births, and supposing you set forth an elaborate machinery at once in that behalf, also what about those already born? These are little questions of ways and means that neither the *Englishman* nor Government cares to think over or analyse. The *Englishman* is now frank enough to urge, as the *Indian Daily News* has been doing for some time, that the Government need not respect religious or social scruples, but the question is one entirely of expediency. The London *Spectator*, however, cannot take so bold a step or view, and deprecates social legislation at the point of bayonet along with many sensible Englishmen. But has the question of expediency been thoroughly sifted? It is notorious that it has not been.

THE *Indian Daily News* elaborately sets about in vindication of the theory that the king can do no wrong, and argues that as Her Majesty the Queen-Empress and her ministers have sanctioned the Bill, and positively pronounced that it will not be withdrawn, the agitation ought to subside. If this was the true philosophy of what a loyal agitation should be, there could be no agitation against any Government measure, for constructively Her Majesty sanctions and countenances all and every measure, either in the United realm or in its numerous dependencies. And if in this particular instance the Queen actuated by womanly instincts has been misled by interested misrepresentation, it behoves all loyal and patriotic subjects to represent to Her Majesty matters in their true light. To attribute disloyalty to such a perfectly legal, constitutional and loyal method of agitation is one of the most wanton pieces of disloyalty that enemies of the country and the constitution could devise. Results may follow, though no motives may exist, and the agitation has nowhere held the Viceroy or any single individual guilty of deliberate intent to outrage household sanctity and destroy domestic peace. It is some of our own brainless bairns, who are perhaps more to blame so far as the initiative of the mischievous measure is concerned than our rulers who simply and naturally take advantage of circumstances such as they find them. Persistent misrepresentation may engender disloyalty where none exists, for to predicate sedition of all agitation is a mode of argu- in a circle that is warrantable only for the nment of any particular object. We have nough of "enlightened suppprt of the in- nt majority," but their suggestions have as much thrown to the four winds of the s as those of the opponents of the Bill, is absurd for any agitation to subside these circumstances. If the so-called rs of the measure have anything of ect, they will immediately rally he common cause which they have ly betrayed and sacrificed, and make an nd in the name of the country and munity. That there is reason enough h an attitude being taken up is by tion admitted even by the preachers of el gospel of loyalty; why, they say that osition might be confined to "suggestions ification where there is even the most possibility of hardship or injustice." We t the Bill was perfect or were very inking so. But no. Aghast at the idea avy penalty defeating the object of the he editorial sage is attacked with a fit of ity and at the eleventh hour goes down on ees to humbly suggest modifications. And nblushing effrontery, he in the same breath the Queen-Empress' holy name in cation of this barbarous and inhuman re.

THE Hon'ble Justice Telang is not the only high Government official of the Bombay Presidency that has been openly and publicly making common cause with the Bill. Mr. Satyendranath Tagore C. S., District and Sessions Judge of Sholapur, who must be supposed to have great influence in the District, presided at a support meeting and delivered a long speech in vindication of the measure. Poor *pandits* of the Calcutta Sanskrit College, whom their Director stormed and bearded for their temerity in speaking in private in support of what they consider their cherished institutions and usages! The agitation ought to make one thing clear; Government has no right to interfere with the private feelings and opinions of its officers in matters like these, and it is permissible not only not to take any notice of but actually to countenance a demonstration, just because it happens to be in favour of Government. Thus the Bombay support of the measure is being pretty well accounted for.

A DABBLER in history and poetry walking on the footprints of another correspondent to another contemporary, quotes Akbar and Byron in support of the Consent Bill. Akbar, a wise, ruler, on the authority of Elphinstone, is supposed to have prohibited marriage of Hindu girls before puberty. "Daniel", however, stops short with this asseveration and does not see that the opposition is practically of the view that Akber happened to take and a great many other people small and great have taken since and before him. Pre-puberal consummation is condemned all round, but the Bill wants us to take a step further.

IF Messrs Hume and Evans were missionaries in philanthropic garb, whose covert duty was to convert the Congress and all temperance, supporters into Christianity, and to revolutionise our society in the name of political reform, perhaps it was time for them to retire as some suggest. But their vocation is higher far and they will surely not find fault with us for sticking to our fore fathers' faith and customs which they have not studied, which they do not understand and which they cannot, therefore, appreciate. The English constituency may be looked to afterwards and old ladies possibly appeased. In the meantime the split in our own camp must be prevented, and chaff and taunt must not interfere with the discharge of our duty towards the country and the common cause. The reformers are free agents themselves and are welcome to incorporate any reforms they choose with their own social system, and they need not have let their wise heads ache for us. Government has been forced into taking up a position which it will know best how to improve upon, and our own people in the meantime need not compromise themselves to no purpose in the eyes of their fellow-countrymen. The *Mirror* and *its* hundred friends see the danger of the position, but cannot some how or other let its tongue rest and *will* fly off at meaningless ebullitions in the very act of seeking peace and compromise himself and his friends in a way that is as unaccountable as amusing. It is time that the waning senses had returned, for the danger a-head is serious indeed.

Raja Peary Mohan Mookerjee and his colleagues in the Executive Committee appointed at the public meeting on the Scoble Bill held at Bally Utturpara have submitted a second memorial to the Viceroy. It is throughout an earnest protest against the threatened attack upon Hindu religion and an appeal to His Excellency the Viceroy to hesitate before taking a step fraught with misery to-millions and danger to the State. We give below the two concluding paras of the memorial :—

Your Excellency's petitioners ask leave to approach Your Excellency, only with this humble prayer that your Excellency will graciously refrain from doing violence to the religious beliefs of your petitioners. Falling at your feet, in the right Hindu style of supplication, with joined palms, they earnestly implore you to be the defender of their religion, which is seriously threatened by the Bill in its present form. Remembering that Your Excellency is the representative of a sovereign who pledged solemnly, in the name of God, not to interfere with the religion of her subjects, your petitioners implore you so to modify the Bill that it may not do violence to the Hindu religion. Your petitioners cannot make Your Excellency see into their heart of hearts, so that you might witness the deep pain and anguish with which they contemplate the passing of this Bill in its present form. Your Excellency will hardly believe it, but it is none the less true that many of your petitioners have wept bitterly when the Report of the Select Committee convinced them that they had nothing to hope from the Council. Their only hope now centres in you. You are the responsible head of the administration, and you cannot divest yourself of an atom of your responsibility, by sharing it with others, in a case like this, for you have the power to *veto* any measure that may even be unanimously passed by the Legislative Council. To Your Excellency, therefore, your petitioners humbly appeal. Be the Saviour of their Religion, they were never in such extremity betore; they never, for a moment, thought that the British Government could be moved to do violence to their religious feelings, after the solemn pledges given them by their revered and beloved Sovereign. They again implore Your Excellency by all that Your Excellency holds sacred, both here and hereafter, not to do violence to their religion. Indeed Your Excellency said, you did not want to do such violence. When the people say that the measure will do violence to their religious beliefs,—and this is a question of fact and not of Sastras—Your Excellency will surely graciously desist. Surely there is no compelling sanctity in the number 12, that it cannot be altered to the age of puberty. This alteration as has been shown above, would in itself, be an improvement, inasmuch as it would extend the protection sought to be given to poor girls to an age beyond 12 years in the majority of cases; it wodld have the effect of bringing the law of the land in harmony with the moral law of the people laid down in their sacred scriptures, so that pious Hindus might be made to see that the Government really wanted to restore the authority which the Sastras had happened unfortunately to lose with some people in the land; it would restore confidence to a despairing people keenly sensitive in the matter of their religion, who, if the Bill became law, in its present form, could not fail to think that the Proclamation of their Sovereign, which they had hitherto considered as the Charter of their religious liberty, had been virtually annulled; and lastly it would pour oil over the troubled waters of a controversy between the whole orthodox community on the one hand, and a handful of reformers on the other,—a controversy which can have only one effect, namely, that of producing a reaction that would retard genuine reform for long years to come, for, after all, true reform must come from within; if Acts of the Legislature could make men moral and virtuous, sin and wrong would long ere this have been abolished from the face of the earth.

Grant then this humble, this earnest prayer of Your Excellency's petitioners to save their religion; and may God Almighty, the God of Chirstians, as well as of Hindus, bless Your Excellency with long-life and shower His choicest blessings on you and yours. It is not nothing, the benediction of a whole people, even though only a subject people when delivered from a great danger and a dire calamity. Be your Excellency that honoured Deliveror, and Your Excellency's name will be cherished in the heart of hearts of a grateful people as never was any name cherished there before.

The Age of Consent Bill and the Factory Bill will be "taken into consideration" at a special meeting of the Council on Thursday next and there will be another meeting on Saturday following to dispose of the ordinary business. At the last meeting of the Council, His Excellency the President stated :—

I propose if it is covenient to hon. members, that the Council should adjourn to Thursday, the 19th instant, next week. On that day we should take the Age of Consent Bill, and the Factory Bill into consideration. I would suggest to hold another sitting on Saturday, the 21st, and I hope that upon that occasion we shall be able to dispose of the remainder of the business before the Council at the present Sessions. I understand that the Financial Statement of our honourable colleague, Sir David Barbour, will be ready for publication next week. I am afraid that this year we shall not be able to give the Council as opportunity of discussing the statement. Hon. Members are aware that the terms of the India Council's Act render such a discussion impossible unless financial legislation of some kind is proposed. But the Statement of our hon. colleague, I believe, does not involve any such legislation, nor is there bofore the Council any Bill to which discussion of the financial situation could be tacked on. Hon. members will recollect that last winter and the winter before, we took advantage of the passage of two comparatively unimportant measures in order to bring on a general financial discussion. I am afraid this year that course is not open to us. Hon. members, no doubt, will observe that the Secretary of State has already introduced into Parliament his Bill for amending the India Council's Act, and I have every reason to hope that it may become law during the present session of the British Parliament. Should that anticipation be realised this will be the last Sessions of the Legislative Council which will take place without full discussion of the financial situation and the financial proposals of the Government of India.

The *Englishman* says the Consent Bill will be "taken into consideration *and passed*" And of course it will be.

Correspondence.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

London.

THE LATE MR. BRADLAUGH.

THE chief question of interest at the present moment, in reference to Indian affairs, is the fate of Mr. Bradlaugh's bill, now that its author can no longer bring it before Parliament. The Hon'ble member for Northampton had made himself so thoroughly master of all the details of the question, and had acquired so influential a position in the House, that no better advocate could be selected, and the difficulty of finding a substitute has been very great. Fortunately, however, the task has fallen into able hands. I have just ascertained that Mr. Bryce has consented to stand sponsor to the Bill, and will move its acceptance at the earliest opportunity. A better selection could hardly have been made. Mr. Bryce is an ex-minister of a liberal Government and a man of great industry and ability who will be sure to do justice to the cause he has espoused. It is impossible, in the present state of business, to say when the Bill will be reached, but it seems hardly likely that it will come on before Easter. It is believed that Mr. Gladstone will support the Bill. I have heard on tolerably good authority that he has promised to do so; and that his advocacy will rally many wavering adherents to the measure can scarcely be doubted. There is now a reasonable prospect that Indian reform will be made a plank in the liberal platform, and when that point is reached, the desired result can only be a matter of time.

Mr. Bradlaugh's successor at Northampton has just been elected. No one had the smallest doubt that Alderwan Manfield, the liberal candidate, would be at the head of the poll, but so triumphant a majority as 1713 was hardly anticipated. It is the third election since the recent Irish squabbles, and the liberal party is naturally jubilant at the indication that the "flowing tide, which met with a check at Bassetlaw, has received a forward impetus which cannot well be mistaken." It was hoped that some well known friend of India, like Mr. Bradlaugh himself, might have been chosen to succeed him in his old constituency. But the local leaders, after long and anxious consultation, decided on having a local candidate. The names of several outsiders were before them, and first on the list was that of Mr. William Digby, who, from his long-standing and intimate relations with Mr. Bradlaugh, would in all probability have been selected. It is to be hoped, however, that the new member if he has not already made a study of the Indian question, will be led to do so, if only to show his fidelity to the tradition of his constituency. He is a very popular man in the borough, and has taken an active part in many reform movements.

The general sympathy extended to Mr. Bradlaugh during his illness, and the kindly references to him since his decease even by his political opponents, have come with no little surprise upon those who remember the torrents of invective that were poured upon him in his heroic struggles in Parliament only a few years since. Nothing could be too severe for the doughty iconoclast. Now all parties vie in extolling his integrity of purpose and his indomitable energy in behalf of any cause that enlisted his sympathies That Indians themselves should take an early opportunity of joining in the general chorus of condolence offered to Mr. Bradlaugh's daughter, Mrs. Bonner, was only to be expected. An interesting gathering for this purpose took place recently at the National Liberal Club. It consisted of a number of Indians representing all classes, residing in England, and was presided over by Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji. Letters and telegrams were received from Indian students at Oxford and Cambridge expressive of deep sympathy with the objects of the meeting. The Chairman gave some account of his personal experience of Mr. Bradlaugh, and expressed his deep sense of the loss he had sustained, in common with the whole country and indeed with humanity, in the lamented death of his old friend. He described how the deceased member some years ago wrote to him and invited him to his house to talk over Indian questions, in which he manifested the greatest interest. At the close of the interview he asked for a memorandum of the most important Indian questions, to which he afterwards, applied himself with great deligence. Indeed, said Mr. Naoroji, he never took up a question which he did not thoroughly study and make his own. Mr. Harikishen Lal then moved the first resolution: "That we, Indians resident in the United Kingdom, express our condolence with Mrs. Bradlaugh Bonner in her sad bereavement by the untimely death of her father Mr. Charles Bradlaugh." He spoke of the influence which Mr. Bradlaugh had unconsciously exercised on the lives of Indian students, not necessarily as a religious or social guide, but as a man who had set an example of strict honesty and dauntless courage in his struggles in behalf of freedom of speech and thought. They all desired to follow in the footsteps of so great a hero. The motion was seconded by Mr. M. Hague, supported by Mr. J. P. Padshah, and unanimously adopted. The next resolution was proposed by Mr. S. H. Imam (Mahomedan.) It was as follows:—"That we, Indians resident in the United Kingdom, recognize, and desire to place on record, the deep gratitude of the whole Indian people for the many services rendered to our country by the late Mr. Bradlaugh, who in many ways proved himself to be the champion of the weak and the hopeless, and was ever solicitous for the welfare of the Indian people alike political, social and economical, and strenuous in his efforts, both in Parliament and in the country, to serve the best interests of his Indian fellow-subjects." This was seconded by Mr. P. Modi, and supported by Mr. Chatterji, Mr. Roy and Mr. Martin Wood, the last-named gentleman suggesting the revival and reorganization of the Indian Society as a means of taking common action when necessary, in connection with Indian matters. The motion was adopted. A third proposal, introduced by Mr. Mukerji, seconded by Mr. Ghamat, and supported by Mr. Shah, was also accepted, expressive of sympathy with the electors of Northampton and the indebtedness of the Indian people to them in not only permitting their member to interest himself in Indian affairs but approving what he had done for India. On the motion of Mr. Suleiman, seconded by Mr. Mohun Lal, and supported by Mr. Ramchandra, the Chairman was requested to communicate the resolutions to Mrs. Bonner and the chairman of the Northampton Liberal Association.

I may add that shortly before his death Mr. Bradlaugh expressed a wish that he could take another trip to India; and it is believed by some of his friends that if he had done so, and thus avoided the rigors of one of our severest winters, he might still be amongst us. To one who, like myself, witnessed the strong emotion which he manifested on the reception given him in Bombay it is no matter of surprise that India should have been constantly in his thought throughout his illness and the subject of some of his very latest utterances.

THE IRISH SPLIT.

The Irish split is still uppermost in men's minds, though many are getting tired of it. This reminds me of a leading article said to have been written many years ago by an Indian Editor who, on reading the files of English Papers, could see nothing but long reports about a great ecclesiastical controversy known in those says as the "Gorham case." It was the only topic which presented itself for comment; and the disgusted editor seized his pen and wrote what is said to have been the shortest leader ever printed! "D— the Gorham case." *Mutato nomine*, that is what people have been saying about the Parnell case—in sentiment at least if not quite in the same phraseology; and there is a general sense of relief that the long and weary negociations at Boulogne are at length at an end, although nothing has come of them. The air is the clearer now that the pourparlers and interviews are out of the way. It is now hoped and believed by the great majority of the Liberal party that Mr. Parnell has been virtually extinguished and that the Home Rule movement has entered upon another and more promising phase. The arrest of Mr. Dillon and Mr. O'Brien has excited very general sympathy in their behalf. Whether they will undergo their imprisonment, or whether Mr. Balfour will, under the circumstances, be generous enough to shorten or remit the term of their incarceration remains to be seen.

MR. DIGBY AND "GREATER BRITAIN."

You have no doubt ere this seen and read Mr. Digby's "Open letter to the members of the House of Commons," and know that in it he has placed before the British Public a body of facts which, if anything can shake its self-complacency short of a famine or a mutiny, should effectually arouse it to a consciousness of responsibility. "Greater Britain," principally as it says on account of the appearance just now of this letter—which it describes as "One of the most terrible indictments ever probably written of a governing race"—has selected Mr. Digby for treatment in its "man of the mouth" series—a series of biographical sketches of men who have rendered important services to commerce, the development, or the common understanding of the Empire. Those who know Mr. Digby's work will feel that few persons answer better to such a description than he does; though where his work and intentions are misunderstood some think, and say loudly enough too, that its effect is to stir up ill-will and disaffection. But he is too courageous and sincere to care for this; his "Open letter" is the latest and strongest proof of his disregard of the conventional optimism which prefers that unpleasant facts relating to India should be kept out of sight. Even "Greater Britain," while [illegible] chapter and verse for his startling facts, feels the shock too great and gasps. "We cannot help thinking that he has for once in his life been an intemperate man—in the language he has employed and the opinions he has expressed."

But it succeeds in pulling itself together sufficiently to assure him that if he can prove that the English rule in India is what he makes it out to be—a tyranny of the most selfish and abominable character, entirely directed to self-aggrandisement, he and his friends shall have the support of this journal. We have never supposed that India is governed and possessed by Englishmen for purely philanthropic purposes; but if it is run upon the lines and for the purposes contained in Mr. Digby's extraordinary letter, then the sooner we clear out of India the better for us as a ruling people, and the better for the natives of India." Mr. Digby has responded to this challenge and has offered in the columns of "Greater Britain" to prove his thesis over again, which is shortly put, that if England has conferred benefits with her left hand on India she has with her right inflicted upon her the greatest injuries, and that it is high time she recognized this and made amends for her cruelties whether committed consciously or unconsciously. But to me at least it seems that no fair reader can doubt that he has already proved so much in his "Open letter."

INDIAN MATTERS IN PARLIAMENT.

THE FACTORY ACT.

ON Tuesday evening, the 17th February, Mr. J. Maclean enquired as to the amendment of the Indian Factory Act; asking whether the Bill would pass into law before Viceroy left for Simla; and whether its provisions would include as a minimum the rules adopted at the International Labour Conference of Berlin regarding age, hours of labour, and hours of rest and refreshment.

It appears that legislation is to be proceeded with at once upon the lines of the International Labour Conference; the limitation of age in the case of children to be raised to nine years. Mr. Maclean thought the Indian Government should be pressed to raise the age up to ten years. On the other hand Sir George Campbell pointed out that the Berlin Conference stated that their recommendations were not applicable to tropical countries. The first Lord of the Treasury (Mr. W. H. Smith) was not aware of this fact and said that the sole object in view was the regulation of labour in Factories in a manner consonant with humanity. This is all very nice and even noble and quite in the style of the statesman who is popularly known as "Old morality"; but there is some suspicion that philanthropy alone is not the sole object which the promoters of the bill have in their minds. Sir George Campbell, for one, wonders if the Manchester cotton manufacturers [illegible] are wholly actuated by pure and disinterested motives, or whether their solicitude for the Indian operatives has not some connection with a further anxiety for their own interests in the matter of cotton spinning. Mr. Maclean chooses to ignore the fact that the Berlin Conference had pointed out that their recommendations though they might be fit and proper for Europe might not be applicable to countries like India, and Sir George mentioned one fact showing this, namely, that night-work, which is aimed at in the bill, was in some seasons in India less arduous than day-work. Why, he asked, should the Indian people, and not the Lancashire manufacturers, be consulted in such a matter?

While upon this subject, I may say that a very wide extension of our own Factory Acts is in contemplation. Many places in which domestic industries are carried on will be included—at least, so far as regards the sanitary provisions of the Acts; and it is proposed to raise the age of employment of children from ten to twleve years. The Government of Sir Henry James, Mr. Sydney Buxton, in the Commons, and Lord Dunraven and Lord Thring in the Lords, have in hand schemes of more or less stringency. The manufacturers will go as far in opposition as they can. In their view "It is a tempting of providence to tamper with the reduced hours now established."

DARLINGTON'S PAIN-CURER.—This famous and popular remedy has been found to cure pains of every description arising from whatever cause, on any part of the human fame. A certain cure for Pains in the Back, Lumbago, Pains in the Chest, Sore Throats, Coughs, Colds, Mumps, Tightness of the Chest, Bronchitis, Diptheria, Headache, Topthache, Neuralgia, Colic, Rheumatism; Paralisis, Pains in the Groins, Contracted Joints, Gout, Sciatica, Bad Legs, Bad Breasts, Swellings, Old Sores, Ulcers, Piles, Ringworm, Pimples, and Eruptions ton he Skin. Highly recommended by the Medical faculty. Thousands of Testimonials of its marvellous cures. Call for Darlington's Pain Curer and see you get it. Per bottle, Re. 1; large size, Re. 2; packing and postage As. 8. May be had from Messrs. Darlington & Co., at their establishment 49, Dhurrumtollah Street, Calcutta.

INDIAN FINANCE—A SUGGESTION OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

"Grievances shall precede supply" has been a settled provision of the English constitution for ages, and some semblance of it used to be observed in regard to Indian matters; but of late, as is well known, when the Indian budget has been before Parliament, no opportunity has been allowed for the discussion of topics not directly and closely connected with the financial proposals. Not that there has been a deliberate intention to exclude criticism on the part of the Government. The defect has arisen from a standing order of the House which has been in existence only since 1888 and was made for expediting our own business. We secured our own constitutional privileges, but forgot that similar safeguards were required to secure those of India. The motion of Sir W. Plowden was designed to amend the standing order so as to restore the state of things before 1888, when it was possible as Sir Robert Fowler put it to admire the intellectual feats of the "Member for India"—Mr Fawcett. But alas! where is there now such a member! Had Mr. Bradlaugh lived ten years longer, endowed with the physical and mental vigour of his earlier days we might have hoped that on the restoration of the old system the man would not have been wanting. But "systems" do not make Fawcett and Bradlaugh, though they not unfrequently mar them. The Government on the whole was sympathetic and found no reason to be otherwise seeing that the motion was well supported on both sides of the House. They put forward the argument that probably after all it was better that there should be a real searching criticism directed specifically to the Budget than that time should be "wasted" by desultory discussion on a variety of general topics. Sir R. Temple and Sir George Campbell also took this line, but in the end the motion was agreed to.

MILITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Much greater differences of opinion arose over Mr. Buchanan's motion for the abolition of the separate Presidential commands than upon that of which I have just spoken. This was to be expected considering the nature of the topic, and the discussion ended by Mr. Buchanan withdrawing his motion after an expression of satisfaction with the tone of the speech of the Secretary for War, and his declaration that when the full effect of the measures already taken to remove the dangers and inconveniences of the present system had been observed further consideration should be given to the matter. The argument of the Government was that by recent reforms all difficulties arising out of the separate commands had been removed and there remained no overwhelming military opinion in favour of further changes. A bolder statement of Sir John Gorst was that there would be no financial advantage to be gained by adopting Mr. Buchanan's proposals; and he added the further insuperable difficulty as he considered it, of passing the necessary legislation in the House of Commons. His experience as Under-Secretary had been so unfortunate, he said, that he could only expect an addition to the number of his bantlings which had already perished in the "massacre of the innocents."

THE AGE OF CONSENT BILL.

The "Times" calling upon the Indian National Congress to act as interpreter between the Hindu people and the Government is rather a note-worthy phenomenon. Yet this is what its correspondent in India has been doing in its cables of the various meetings in support and opposition to the Bill; though probably there is a covert purpose of sneering at and derogating from the claims of the Council to be representative of Indian opinion. The correspondent says: "If the Standing Committee would only issue an official expression of approval it might do much to allay apprehension and quiet the excitement. Its hesitation to do so must be due to one of two causes—either the Congress itself is divided in opinion on the subject or it fears to alienate the Hindus by supporting an unpopular measure."

You are best able to judge as to the inevitableness of the dilemma into which the *Times'* correspondent is evidently trying to put you; but it seems to me here at least that considering the various views which the Bill has given rise to in the Hindu Community the fact of the Congress not having declared an opinion on the matter does not at all weaken its representative position but rather strengthens it. An assembly may be as representative as you please, and yet may often find moving the "previous question" if not a counsel of perfection yet one of essential wisdom.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND A GAMBLING SCANDAL.

For months past sermons have been preached by the Clergy from their pulpits and by editors in the columns of all sorts and conditions of papers, except of course sporting papers, declaiming against the grievous increase in the practices of gambling and betting as sins against religion and society. The practice of betting has led to scenes in the Streets of some towns such that for better government these towns have asked for fresh powers from Parliament to deal with them as nuisances. There is at present too, just introduced into the House of Lords, a bill by Lord Herschell to make the sending of circulars proposing betting to legal infants, that is persous under the age of 21 years, a criminal offence. Moreover, as a nation we pride ourselves on own athletics and yet the taint of betting has entered so deeply into them as to have deteriorated their honesty and manliness to an extent which all lovers of sport loudly deplore. So alive are the authorities to the dangers of gambling and betting that special instructions are issued to the commanding officers of regiments to discourage by every means in their power their practice amongst the officers. In fact as the spirit of gambling has spread and become more dangerous another influential body of opinion has arisen in opposition to it.

Judge then what the sensation has been when what is now known as the Gordon Cumming Scandal came to light with the Prince of Wales as an actor in it, though in such a manner as not at all to affect his personal honour. An action for libel has been commenced by Sir William Gordon-Cumming, a Lieutenant Colonel in one of our most "crack" aristocratic regiments, against certain ladies and gentlemen who charge him with having cheated while playing the game of baccarat at a large party composed of many people of high social position including amongst them the Prince of Wales himself. Sir William by birth and wealth and by his brilliant military career is a conspicuous figure in our high social circles; and as such an offence as he is charged with is looked upon with horror and disgust, and as totally incompatible with the breeding of a gentleman, it involves the total wreck of his position should he not succeed in clearing himself. Amongst his accusers was his hostess. The matter was placed before the Prince; and in the result a paper was signed by Sir William binding himself not to play at cards again; all the parties promising secrecy. This promise of silence was not kept—some say a lady told the secret. At any rate the whole affair came to light and thereupon Sir William declared his innocence and asserted that he had signed the paper in a moment of weakness when the shock of such an attack upon his honour had totally unnerved him; and at the very time of doing so had denied the charge. Though he has commenced his action against his accusers there has been an attempt made to keep the affair out of the Courts. Society is thought to be deeply interested in this as an outburst of indignation would surely follow any specific disclosures of the high play which has come more and more into vogue of late years. So important has the matter become that it is said Her Majesty the Queen has had the whole circumstances laid before her by her own command.

Old club men are recalling a similar case which made a great stir in the world of fashion many years ago. Lord De Ros was charged with cheating at whist; his accuser curiously enough being Mr. Cumming—whether or not a member of Sir William Gordon-Cumming's family I cannot say. Lord De. Ros brought an action for libel, but it was proved beyond all doubt that he had time without number ingeniously contrived to perform the trick called "sauter la coupe" that is to cut the cards so as always to turn up an ace or a king when he dealt himself. His lordship had many more opportunities of repentance given him than Sir William seems to have had. This may be because we are not so "morally deficient" as our fathers were. However, Lord De. Ros chose to act the part of injured innocence and not being successful in it his own country became too unpleasant for residence and the morning after the trial he took his leave of it.

I may mention that the form of cheating with which Sir William Gordon-Cumming is charged is known by the French term of "poussette" and consists in a player, who is backing the hands at baccarat, dishonestly adding to or lessening his counters representing money, according as it is advantagious for him to do the one or the other as the game proceeds.

ENGLISH MARRIAGE LAW—THE DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER'S BILL.

You are aware that in its way the question of allowing the marriage of a widower with the sister of his deceased wife is a religious and social question with us of somewhat the same quality as that of child marriage with you; though it is not of course of so grave a nature. This at any rate may be said of it now; for when the proposal has first made to relax our marriage law in this respect much more violent feelings were aroused than it would be possible to excite at present; even amongst the conscientious opponents of such marriages. These still oppose, as they did, in the House of Commons on Tuesday night; but they fight now always with the consciousness that they will be beaten there as they were then. They still continue to score in the Lords and probably again as before they will have a majority. But the fight goes on impassively; almost all having been said that can be said on the subject. Both sides still largely assert their favourite but contradictory proposition; one that it is a measure exclusively for the rich; the other that it is the poor working man who is so often dependant on the sister of his dead wife for his family comforts, and being prohibited from marrying her is led to live in concubinage to the detriment alike of the woman and the children who may be born of their union. The religious text is almost given up which was relied upon against it—recent scholarship having rather shattered it. The high Church or sacerdotal party, however, still carry on the tradition; and Mr. Gladstone who belongs to that party, remains in the position he held many years ago. His weal and sacramental notions of marriage are not, however, those of the bulk of English people. He is known to be opposed to the ordinary re-marriages of widowers or widows. On the whole there is a growing sympathy with people who contract such marriages and a dislike to the bastardizing of their issue. As the marriages are taking place at the rate of a thousand a year public opinion will ultimately sanction them without hesitation. America and our Colonies, which have thrown us over on this point, are frequently resorted to by those who would marry though prohibited by their own law and who also wish to have the religious ceremonies and enjoy the social *eclat* usually attending marriage. That of course does not make their union legal in England unless the parties were domiciled in the country of the marriage; and had not merely resorted to it for the purpose of marrying.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN CLASS OF CHRONER COUGH.—This celebrated Oil has been most iexten sively and succestully used in the treatment of Chronic Coughs. It effectually corrects the morbid action and deposits of mucous sursaces of the throat and bronchial tube, and spedily allays the irritation which produces frequent and prolohged coughing. Dr. Hunter Sempie, Physician to the Hospital for Diseases of the thorat and chest, writes:—"I have long been aware of the great reputation onjoyed by the light Brown Cod Liver Oil introduced in to medical practice by Dr. de Jongh, and have recommendod it with the utmost confidence. I have no heisitation in stating my opinion that it possesses all the qualities of a good and efficient medicine. Its taste is by no means disagreeable and might even be called pleasant. I can fully believe that, from its richness in chemical principles, it is superior in efficacy to many, or perhaps all, of the pale-coloured Oils. I have found Dr. de Jongh's Oil very useful in cases of Chronic Cough, and especially in Laryngeal Disease complicated with Consumption." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints and quarts with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignesss on the capsule and label under wrapper by all chemists, druggists and storekeepers. Sole Consigness, Ansar, Harford, and Co. 210, High Holborn London.

MEMORY. LOISETTE'S System. A Cambridge University Lecturer (Dr. R. N. Ingle) was (Jan. 1890) "much impressed with the possibilities of improvement to memory which the LOISETTE Lessons open up." derived great benefit from your lessons, though at first prejudiced against them by the misrepresentations of Mr. Appleby."—Dr. Geo. Herschell, Physician to the West End Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System, London. "In three weeks I was able to memorise the names, etc., of 400 men."—Major Jamieson Bengal C. S. "Having seen the base attempt to robyou, I send, unsolicited, the statement that your system is of great advantage to strong memory incalenable aid to weak one."—Rev. Dr. J. M. Buckly. Excellent travelling companion."—Capt. J. B. Haye R. N. Wonderful aid to memory."—Mirza Saderud-din Khan. "Invaluable."—J. J. Francis, Q. C. "Does not involve much labour."—*Statesman*, 23rd Oct. 1887. "Tremendously popular in Oxford."—*Pall Mall Gazette*, 4th February. 1890. Prospectus Free. One Pupil, Rs. 76; Ten pupils, Rs. 19 each Apply to F. Fisk-Williams, 71, Elliot Road, Calcutta or to A. LOISETTE, 37, New Oxford Street, London, England.

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Government Notificati.

Calcutta Gazette.—*March* 11, 1891

GENERAL.—Mr C H Bompas, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, is empowered to receive and dispose of applications made under sections 40, 80 and 118 of the Bengal Tenancy Act in the district of Midnapur.

The services of the Babu Chundi Churn Chatterjee, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rajshahye, are placed at the disposal of the Financial Department of this Government.

Babu Benode Behary Sircar, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is posted to the Sadar station of the district of Rajshahye.

The services of Mr C G H Allen, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chittagong, are placed at the disposal of the Revenue Department of this Government, with effect from the 2nd March 1891.

Babu Mohendra Chunder Mozumdar, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Maimansing, is vested with the powers of a Collector, under Act X of 1870 to be exercised in that district.

Mr H Beveridge, C S, reported his departure from India on furlough on the 22nd ultimo.

Babu Kedar Nath Mukerjee, Special Deputy Collector Sirun, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

The services of Mr R Nathan, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Meherpur, Nadiya are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of India in the Finance Department, with effect from the 15th instant.

Mr T W Richardson, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Serampur, Hughli, is appointed to act in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, with effect from the 2nd December 1890.

The Hon'ble P Nolan, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the General Revenue and Statistical Departments, is allowed furlough for eight months, under article 340 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 25th instant.

Mr. C. E. Buckland, Secretary, Board of Revenue, is appointed to act as Secretary to the Goverument of Bengal in the General, Revenue and Satistical Departments, during the absence, on furlough, of the Hon'ble P. Nolan, or until further orders.

Mr. C. W. Bolton, Magistrate and Collector, 24-Pergunnahs is appointed to act as Secretary, Board of Revenue, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. C. E. Buckland, or until further orders.

Mr H. H. Risley, Deputy Commissioner on special duty, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of the 24-Pergunnahs during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. C. W. Bolton, or until further orders.

Mr. Risely is also appointed to act, until further orders, in the second grade of Magistrates and Collectors.

Mr. F. W. R. Cowley, Judicial Commissioner, Chota Nagpur is allowed special leave for four months under article 348 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 9th April 1891, or such subsequent date as he may avail himself of it.

POLICE.—Mr. J. B. Birch, District Superintendent of Police Monghyr, is allowed leave for six weeks, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

Mr. H. W. Boileau, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Bhagulpur, is transferred to Monghyr and is appointed to have charge of the district police of that district during the absence on leave, of Mr. J. B. Birch, or until further orders, with effect from the date on which he joined his appointment.

Mr. H C. L Bamber, Assistant Superintendent of Police 24-Pergunnahs, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations with effect from the 16th instant.

Mr R. T. Dundas, Assistant Superintendent of Police in charge of the Gurjhat Mehals Police, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Cuttack District Police, in addition to his own duties, with effect from the date on which he relieved Colonel H. M Ramsay.

Mr. W. R. Green, District Superintendent of Police, Chumparon, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved by Mr M. F. Bemish.

This cancels the order of the 16th February 1891 transferring Mr. Green to Cuttack.

Mr. J. Masters, district Superintendent of Police, Bhagulpur, is transferred to Dacca, *vice* Mr. C. T. Orr, proceeding on furlough.

Mr. E. C. Ryland, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Chittagong Hill Tracts, is transferred to Bhagulpur, and is appointed, until further orders, to have charge of the district police of that district.

Mr. C. T. Orr, District Superintendent of Police, Dacca, is allowed furlough for seven months, under article 371 of the Civil Service Regulations with effect from the 1st April next or such subsequent date as he may avail himself of it

JUDICIAL.—Babu Benode Behary Sircar, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rajshahye, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Babu Gopal Chandra Bose Officiating Additional Subordinate Judge, Bhagulpur, is allowed leave for one month, under article 306 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 3rd January 1891.

The order of the 6th ultimo, granting leave for ten days to Babu Rajani Nath Ghose, Munsif of Jajpur, Cuttack, is cancelled.

The undermentioned gentlemen are appointed to be Honorary Magistrates of the Independent Bench at Kendrapara, in the district ofo Cuttack, and are vested with the powers of a Magistrate thfe third class.

Habu Hari Charan Misra.
Munshi Waris Ali.
Babu Balaram Bromorbor.

Babu Hari Charan Misra is also empowered to take down evidence in criminal cases in the English language.

The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the resignation tendered by Babu Gobind Chunder Dutt of his appointment as an Honorary Magistrate of the Bench at Sealdah, in the district of the 24-Pergunnahs.

Moulvi Golam Akbar Khan is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Pubna Independent Bench, and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Maulvi Syed Ahmudullah is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Jessore Independent Bench, and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the 3rd class.

Babu Mohendra Nath Ghose, Munsif of Narail, in the district of Jessore, is allowed leave for fifteen days, under article 306 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him on the 17th February 1891.

Babu Revati Charan Banerjee, Munsif of Basirhat, in the district of the 24-Pergunnahs, is allowed leave for sixteen days *viz.* five days under article 309 of the Civil Service Regulations and the remaining period under article 306 (b) of the same, Regulations, with effect from the afternoon of the 3rd February 1891.

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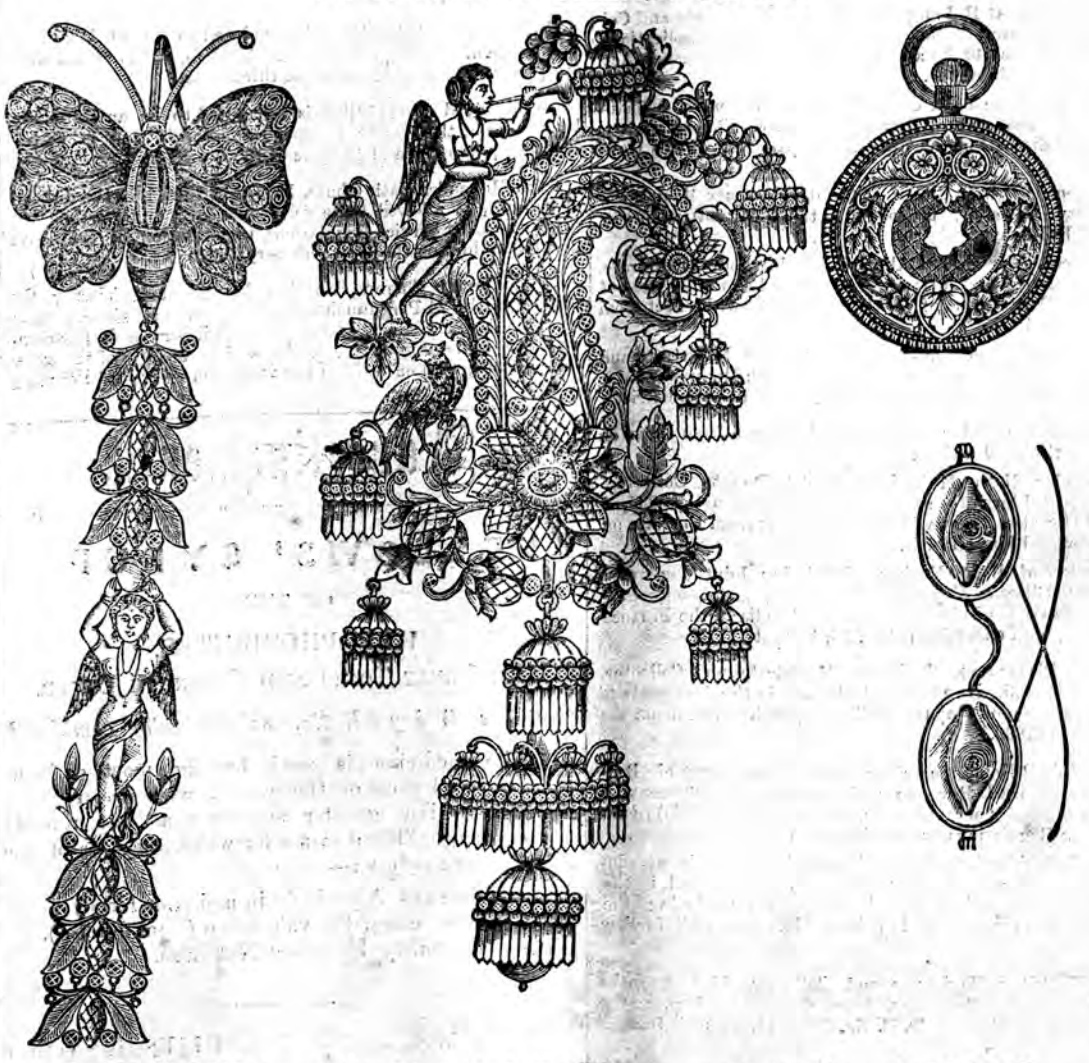

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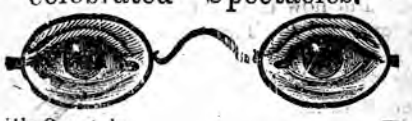

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